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# THE EUROPEAN TIMES

EUROPEAN  
ARTS  
Life & Times section  
Page 10

No 64,261

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21 1992

40p

Insurance report details strange final hours and points strongly to suicide

## Maxwell ordered farewell flypast

BY LIN JENKINS

ROBERT Maxwell probably committed suicide, according to a report carried out for the companies that insured his life for £20 million.

The loss adjusters conclude in a lengthy report that the evidence suggests that the publisher took his own life "more compelling than any other cause", as his fraudulent efforts to keep his ailing empire afloat were about to be disclosed, exposing him to ridicule and ruin.

The report takes into account the results of a second post-mortem examination on Maxwell's body conducted in Israel by Dr Iain West, head of forensic medicine at Guy's Hospital, London, shortly before the publisher was buried on the Mount of Olives. The document, a copy of which is published in today's edition of *The Sun*, goes some way towards ending the mystery surrounding Maxwell's death in the waters around the Canary Islands on November 5 last year. It charts Maxwell's indecision in the days before his death and gives details of his request that his private jet should circle his yacht, the *Lady Ghislaine*, as if in a final proud display of the trappings of his corrupt life.

"We wonder whether Robert Maxwell's decision to spend those last days on the *Lady Ghislaine*, his request that his jet rendezvous with the yacht at sea, and his unusually pleasant manner the majority of the time, brought about his realisation that the end of his business career and his flamboyant lifestyle was rapidly drawing close," says the report by Rich Wheeler and Co, the chartered loss adjusters.

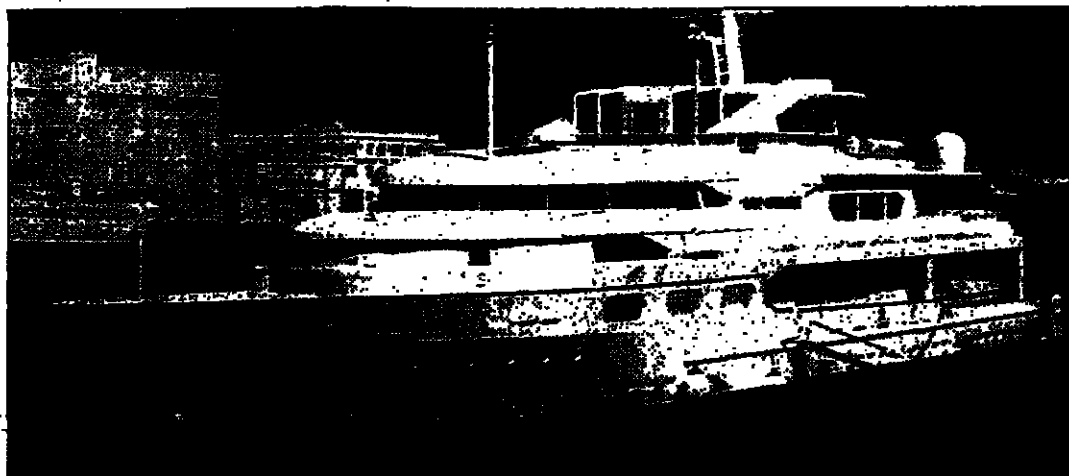
The investigators are particularly



Maxwell: evidence that he killed himself 'compelling'

puzzled by Maxwell's decision to board the yacht, which delayed its scheduled transatlantic crossing to Bermuda, and his insistence on travelling alone, rather than with his personal steward and members of his office staff, which was his usual practice. They also noted that he displayed unusual goodwill towards the crew and repeatedly changed his mind about when he was going to return to London.

The main key to the loss adjusters' conclusion is that he locked his stateroom before going out on the deck, as if he merely intended to



Final journey: the yacht *Lady Ghislaine*, on which the troubled tycoon sailed to his death

take a breath of air. The key has never been found. "If Robert Maxwell died as a result of natural causes, homicide or as the result of an accident, why did he lock the stateroom door? Taken in conjunction with the pathological evidence, which does not exclude suicide, we believe that there are reasonable grounds to argue that Robert Maxwell intended to end his own life," the report says.

The investigators give details of changes in Maxwell's usual pattern of behaviour and in his rude and aggressive manner in the days before he disappeared. The report says he was, somewhat surprisingly, "complimentary and almost amiable towards the crew", even praising the food they provided although it did not include the luxuries he insisted on when he gave proper notice of a visit.

The loss adjusters also thought it strange that, on the morning of

November 3, Maxwell first instructed his private jet to fly to London to pick up Ian and Kevin, two of his sons, and then changed his mind. "As far as we know, Kevin and Ian Maxwell were unaware of their father's intentions that morning," the investigators report.

"In the event, he countermanded his original order, possibly to give himself more time to think. Conceivably, he reached the conclusion that the collapse of the empire was inevitable," the report says.

The conclusions are based on interviews with the crew of the *Lady Ghislaine*, what is now known about the collapse of his business empire and Dr West's post-mortem examination. He found injuries to the left hand and tearing of the left shoulder which were consistent with someone clinging to something, possibly the yacht's guard rail. Dr West believes this could not

have happened if the publisher had suffered a heart attack, nor are there other injuries consistent with a fall on deck.

Dr West concludes in a separate report: "We are in the position, which is not uncommonly seen following second post-mortem examinations, of not having a clearly defined cause of death. Whilst the deceased did suffer from cardiac disease, and we cannot exclude it as being a factor in his death, we are of the opinion that the most likely cause of death is drowning." The Spanish autopsy team were also unable to reach a definite conclusion on how Maxwell died.

Dr West says he is unable to rule out the possibility of murder, particularly since it would be easy to push somebody as obese and unfit as Maxwell overboard, without leaving physical evidence. However, the loss adjusters' report states that "there is no other evidence to

suggest homicide". Their report forms the basis on which the insurance companies will decide whether or not to honour, in full or in part, the £20 million policy which covered accidental death anywhere in the world. The introduction states that it is "prepared with the possibility of eventual litigation".

The report discloses for the first time graphic details of Maxwell's last days, from the telephone call he made from his London office disclosing his intention to fly to Gibraltar to take a short break, allegedly to recover from a persistent cold.

During his stay on the *Lady Ghislaine* he dealt with a mass of paperwork, spent hours on the telephone and enjoyed a brief visit to Madeira, where he instructed one of the crew to return to his yacht to get \$3,000 so he could go to the local casino. The crew said he was in surprisingly good spirits and told investigators that he showed no signs of being depressed or any more troubled than usual. Yet, as the report shows, he displayed some unusual traits of character and lacked his customary confidence in making decisions.

Following Maxwell's death, details of the corruption and debt inside his business empire began to emerge, prompting Serious Fraud Office investigations into suspected share support schemes and manipulation of his companies' pension fund assets. The fact that Maxwell knew his empire was on the verge of collapse, and the realisation that others were about to reach the same conclusion, are pivotal facts in the conclusion of the report.

Background and analysis, page 3

TODAY IN  
THE TIMES

ABLAZE WITH  
COLOUR



French architects  
reveal their  
dazzlingly  
bright ideas  
*Life & Times*  
Page 20

BAYING FOR  
BLOOD



Valerie Grove  
finds the Lloyd's  
chief calm on  
storm-tossed seas  
*Life & Times*  
Page 1

LESSONS  
IN LOVE



Putting the  
seriousness  
back into  
sex videos  
*Life & Times*  
Page 5

## Recession is worst since the Thirties

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

BRITAIN is suffering the longest recession since the 1930s and there is still no sign of an end. This was the grim message conveyed by the figures for last year's Gross Domestic Product published by the Central Statistical Office yesterday.

The figures showed that GDP, the most comprehensive measure of national economic performance, fell by a record 2.5 per cent in 1991. Earlier, ministers gave a general blessing to the idea of tax cuts when Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, outlined the expected future course of the economy to the cabinet yesterday.

But there was further bad news for the government last night when it learned that the latest opinion poll showed that Labour has established a clear lead over the Conservatives. The first poll reflecting the public's considered verdict on last week's "black Thursday" catalogue of bleak economic news puts Labour four points ahead of the Tories.

Labour has only once been so far ahead of the Conservatives in the last six weeks and the size of the margin will trouble Tory MPs with the election now looking a virtual certainty for April 9.

The four-point gap suggested by the NOP survey for The

*Independent/BBC Newsnight* compares with a 3 per cent Labour lead in the same poll a month ago.

The full figures with last month's in brackets are: Labour 42 per cent (down 1), Conservative 38 (down 2), Liberal Democrats 15 (up 2). If the pattern were reproduced in the general election Labour would be close to an overall majority and the Tories would lose about 80 seats.

Yesterday's economic statistics showed that in the fourth quarter alone, GDP excluding North Sea oil and gas output contracted by 0.4 per cent. This was the sixth consecutive quarterly decline, making the recession the longest in post-war history.

The 2.5 per cent annual decline in GDP was also the biggest since the second world war, but measured on a more accurate quarterly basis, the present recession remained much shallower than the slump of 1980-81. In that recession, the economy contracted by 5.5 per cent from its quarterly peak to its trough. So far the peak to trough fall has been only 3.7 per cent.

The continuing decline in the economy last year contrasted starkly with the Treasury's predictions of an economic recovery beginning in the second half of the year. As recently as the Chancellor's autumn statement last November, the Treasury said that output had "stabilised" during the summer.

Parliament, page 7



Neil Kinnock at the launch yesterday of Labour's plans for the health service

## Labour vows to scrap NHS reforms

HOSPITAL trusts, GP fund-holding and the competitive market within the health service will be scrapped by a Labour government, Neil Kinnock said yesterday (Nicholas Wood writes).

In place of the govern-

ment's NHS reforms, hospitals would no longer buy or sell services, he said in launching his party's prescription for the service. Instead, they would draw on "incentive funding" of £400 million to meet performance

agreements for greater efficiency and higher standards. The Labour leader said his party's programme would save the NHS from fragmentation and privatisation.

Labour's health card, page 2

## De Klerk calls a referendum

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT de Klerk of South Africa yesterday announced a referendum on his reforms before the end of March, saying he would resign if whites voted against him. He would then call a whites-only election. His decision came after the National party was soundly beaten in a by-election regarded as a key indicator of white attitudes to power sharing.

Visibly angered by claims by the far-right Conservative party that he no longer represented most whites, Mr de Klerk told parliament: "This is something that must be settled. We need people who can speak with confidence in the negotiating process, in the knowledge they have the voters of this particular house (the white House of Assembly) behind them." The exact date and question to be asked in the referendum would be announced next week. "If I lose, I will resign and you can have an election."

The African National Congress condemned the notion of a whites-only referendum as racist and said the poll would delay reform. In a joint statement with its communist and trade union allies, it said the referendum announcement "reflects the crisis of the apartheid establishment and underlines the need to move as speedily as possible to a democratic society".

Andries Treurnicht, the leader of the Conservative party, who had demanded a white election after his party's resounding by-election victory, accepted the president's referendum challenge.

Reviewing progress in constitutional negotiations with the ANC and others, Mr de

Klerk said: "The National party can look people in the eye and say there is no doubt where it wants to take them... what we have achieved is a mighty breakthrough towards a reasonable solution." Right-wing propaganda had undermined the government's position at the multi-party talks. "Because it is in the interests of the country that negotiations continue."

Continued on page 18, col 1

Richards foiled, page 13

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## The high priests of love fall out of bed

FROM CHARLES BRENNER  
IN NEW YORK

BARELY recovering from Dr Spock's change of heart in the matter of spanking children, America's postwar generation faced fresh disillusion yesterday. William Masters and Virginia Johnson, the apostles of the sexual revolution and the gurus of good love, said they were applying for divorce.

The pair, who married in 1971, decided to separate because their goals were different, according to their institute in St Louis. "I'm sure people will say if these two people can't get along, who can?" said William Young, the institute director. "But people are people, and they will continue to work professionally and be great friends."

The news was nonetheless disturbing for a generation imbued with Masters and Johnson's doctrines of sexual compatibility: that Age of Aquarius view

that all that mattered was "getting it together". As a let-down, it compared to Dr Benjamin Spock's abandonment of his creed of parental tolerance.

Dr Masters, who is 76 and trained as a gynaecologist, recruited Ms Johnson, who is 67, as a collaborator for his pioneering research into the precepts of normal sexual behaviour in 1959. They picked up from the sexual portrait of pre-war America by Alfred Kinsey in the early 1950s and focused on the act itself, debunking such Freudian myths as the vaginal orgasm.

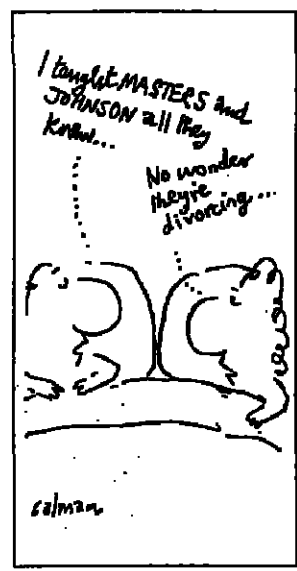
In 1966, their best-seller *Human Sexual Response*, based on laboratory observation of people having intercourse or masturbating, taught America everything it needed to know about sex, launched an industry of gourmet love guides and sent a generation in pursuit of the ultimate sexual high. By the 1970s, the enthusiasm for the mechanics was waning enough for Woody Allen

to satirise it in *The Sleeper*, his vision of a future in which people could leap into "orgasmtrons", devices resembling washing machines, for a quick thrill.

The "first family of sexology", who used surrogates and other controversial methods in their therapy, has long been denounced by traditionalists as the authors of the notion of sex as irresponsible recreation, an approach which has fallen from favour in the age of Aids.

Dr Masters and Ms Johnson always insisted that satisfaction was not just about the penis. In 1986 they expanded the view in *Love and Sex After the Revolution*, reminding readers to "remember that good sex begins while your clothes are still on". And Dr Masters himself pointed out: "If you can't communicate in bed, you probably can't communicate in marriage."

Lessons in Love,  
L&T section, page 5



Births, marriages, deaths	16-17
Crossword	18
Letters	15
Obituaries	17
Parliament	7
Sport	30-36
Weather	18
Arts	2-3
Health	5
Motoring	7
Concise Crossword	9
Law Report	9
European Arts	10

The Institute of Chartered Accountants' PE 2 December 1991 results will be published tomorrow. Copies will be on sale this evening from 10pm at Charles Cross, King's Cross and Victoria stations, Marble Arch and Leicester Square.



1XF



## Smith under pressure to clarify plans for higher tax payers



Smith: only a small minority would be hit

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY  
AND DAVID LIPSEY

PRESSURE on John Smith to provide an early definitive account of Labour's plans to tax the better-off intensified yesterday, as Labour officials admitted the need to "clarify" a statement in the party's official policy document, which appears to commit a future Labour government to increase income tax for higher rate taxpayers by up to £750 a year. Mr Smith's colleagues insist that the party does not intend any such increase.

The controversial statement is contained in *Opportunity Britain*, published by the party last April. The little-noticed passage says that: "In line with the new arrangements for mortgage interest tax relief, we believe that the value of tax allowances should be the same for all taxpayers, instead

of giving most help to those with the highest incomes."

This statement appears to mean that personal tax allowances could only be set against the basic rate of tax, and not against higher rate tax. If so, it would cost a single taxpayer on £27,000 a year or more nearly £500 a year, and a married taxpayer on £29,000 or more an extra £750 a year. It would also mean that more income tax would be paid by those earning as little as £23,700 a year.

This restriction of the use of personal allowances is listed as Labour policy in a summary of the party's proposals published by the Institute for Fiscal Studies. The institute has been planning a study of its impact following the Budget. It also appeared to be confirmed by Neil Kinnock in a recent interview in the *Financial Times*, when he said that the party would "even-

tually" limit tax allowances to the basic rate of income tax.

However, the party now insists that the limit is not intended to apply to the personal allowance. It argues that *Opportunity Britain* does not say that "all" allowances will be phased out. The restriction of allowances to the standard rate is intended to apply only to special allowances, for example those on pension contributions. A need to clarify the policy is, however, admitted.

The party's detailed economic policy document, *Meet the Challenge, Make the Change*, published in 1989, says: "The system of personal and other allowances gives a greater tax saving to people paying top rates of tax than it does to other taxpayers... We believe that the value of tax allowances and reliefs should be the same for all taxpayers." That documents

proposes substituting a zero tax rate band for tax allowances. Labour says that "for most taxpayers this would not change the result" (*Times* italics). It would have the effect of increasing bills for those liable for higher rate tax, unless higher rate tax thresholds were also raised.

The ambiguity adds to the task faced by Mr Smith, the shadow chancellor, as he seeks to persuade voters that only a small minority will be hurt by Labour's tax plans. Mr Smith has this week decided to publish a more detailed statement of the party plans at Budget time. He has been warned by colleagues that his tax plans could threaten party prospects in its target marginal seats, particularly in London. Mr Smith has signalled his intention to say for the first time how much taxpayers will have to earn before they become liable

for the party's higher 50 per cent rate of income tax.

The draft of *Opportunity Britain*, circulated in advance to the media, included a different wording. It said: "In line with the new arrangements for mortgage interest tax relief, relief on pensions contributions and so on will be given to everybody at the same rate of tax..." This was changed in the published version. The media version is the one on which government advisers have been working. This may explain why ministers have not yet attempted to exploit the pledge.

The ambiguity on tax allowances follows controversy over two other Labour proposals which will hit the better-off. The first would end the present ceiling for earnings on which National Insurance contributions are payable. Every-one earning more than £20,280 at

present rates would pay more. The second would introduce a 50 per cent higher rate of income tax on those earning "well above" £30,000 a year.

The IFS has calculated that 12 per cent of families would lose from the effects of abolishing the National Insurance ceiling for employees and self-employed people. If the self-employed are excluded, the percentage of losers falls to 9 per cent. Because the party has not specified at precisely what level its new higher rate tax will start, the institute has not calculated the effect of that.

Nick Brown, Labour's tax spokesman, said last night: "It is absolutely and categorically not our intention to effectively reduce the point at which the 40 per cent tax band cuts in."

Leading article, page 15

## Kinnock pledges cash injection 'to save the NHS'

## Labour plays its health card

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock, the Labour leader, promised yesterday to save the health service from being fragmented and privatised, by repealing the more controversial reforms and increasing spending.

Mr Kinnock announced new targets for waiting lists, cancelled operations and ambulance response time as part of a package of measures designed to promote excellence. William Waldegrave, the health secretary, immediately accused Labour of turning the clock back and throwing away the gains of recent years.

Playing the Labour party's highest card, Mr Kinnock pledged that, if the Tories cut

income tax, a Labour government would use part of the funds from reversing the cut to boost health service spending in the first year. "We, like the British people, believe when financial shortages are prolonging pain and anxiety and causing real suffering, tax cuts simply cannot be justified on any ground of economics, logic or morality," he said.

Although Labour would fully fund all nationally agreed pay awards and restore underfunding in the NHS over "at least the lifetime of a parliament", Mr Kinnock refused to put a figure on the amount.

He confirmed that NHS

trust status would be abolished and the hospitals brought back under health authority control. The competitive market would be disbanded and GP fundholding scrapped. Hospitals would no longer buy or sell services, but would be given "incentive funding" for meeting performance agreements. A £400 million fund will reward hospitals for higher workloads and for moving more services into the community. A central task force will have a budget of about £40 million to help hospitals in financial difficulties.

GPs will get bonus payments for sitting on panels to plan hospital and community

services. All GPs will be able to refer patients to the hospital of their choice and, under a revision of GP contracts, they will not be forced to carry out yearly health checks or visits to the over-75s in their homes.

A Labour government would bring back free eye tests and dental checks, end tax relief for private health insurance, and ban tobacco advertising, according to the party's document *Your Good Health*. A cabinet committee would be set up on health promotion, and a London-wide health authority created to reorganise services.

Health authorities will have to treat a higher proportion of people within three months of being put on a waiting list. The report argues that the present focus on patients waiting for two years had resulted in some long waiters being removed without being treated, and others with more serious conditions having to wait longer for their operations. "The perverse result has been that some patients requiring minor operations in plastic surgery have received top priority while other patients with more serious conditions have had to wait longer as a result," Robin Cook, Labour health spokesman, said.

The new community health authorities — merging districts with family health service authorities — will have to halve the rate of cancelled operations to less than 5 per cent of all procedures.

Ambulance services will have to answer emergency telephone calls within 30 seconds. National standards for hospital cleanliness will be set and hospitals would have to publish cross-infection rates. Labour would end compulsory competitive tendering in NHS domestic services.

The government last night suspended plans to cut dentists' fees until after the election, following protests from dentists who threatened to withdraw from the NHS.

The cut of 13.8 per cent, which would also have applied to patient charges, was demanded by Mr Waldegrave from April 1 because dentists have been earning more than expected since the introduction of the new dental contract in October 1990. This year they are expected to exceed their target gross income by over £10,000.



Historic find: Anna Roberts with a skull from one of 600 skeletons

## Iron Age king's grave found

BY ROBIN YOUNG

A ROYAL grave of the late Iron Age which might be the last resting place of Old King Cole or his father has been rescued from the site of a housing development at St Albans in Hertfordshire.

The grave, in a wooden burial chamber in a pit ten metres across and four metres deep, was found in the grounds of St Albans city hospital after five months of searching and a week before the site was made over for contractors to start work on a housing association development. The burnt remains of

600 skeletons have been uncovered.

The director of the dig, Ros Niblett, said yesterday: "The quantity and quality of objects found in the very elaborate grave and the fact that a Romano-Celtic temple was then built next to the site which continued to be venerated for two or three hundred years into the Roman period all point to this being the burial place of a high status tribal king."

The candidates include Andocus, an early first century ruler of the Catuvellauni,

and his co-ruler, Tascio-banus, who was the father of Cunobelin, Skakespeare's Cymbeline and the Old King Cole of nursery rhyme fame. It seems more likely to be a contemporary of Cunobelin, who one would expect to find buried at Colchester, but it is possible that Old King Cole himself was brought back to St Albans for burial.

The only similar burial was excavated at Lexden, near Colchester, in the 1920s, but the St Albans find, while equally rich, has the distinction of the adjacent temple.

## Parents of rape victim to appeal

The parents of the 14-year-old Irish rape victim are to appeal to the country's Supreme Court against the ruling banning her from having an abortion in Britain (Richard Ford writes).

It is expected that the appeal against the High Court judgment will be heard next week as there is thought to be only two weeks left during which an abortion can be carried out safely.

Although the constitutional ban on abortion leaves the Supreme Court with little room for manoeuvre, the government will hope that it can overturn the ruling, preventing the prospect of a second divisive referendum on abortion.

The decision to appeal to the republic's highest court came after the government promised to pay the legal costs of any action taken by the girl's family.

● The rock star Sinead O'Connor was threatened with arrest by police last night as she tried to force her way into the Irish Parliament building to protest in person to Mr Reynolds over the case of the schoolgirl. She was eventually allowed in and had a 20-minute private talk with him.

## Poll phone-in

Voters will be able to question senior politicians every morning during the general election campaign in a live phone-in programme to be transmitted simultaneously on BBC 1 and Radio 4. *Election Call* is one of a series of programmes announced yesterday by BBC Radio that will allow listeners to judge how politicians are faring during the campaign. Media, L&T section, page 6

## Mother's claim

A High Court judge will announce his decision today on a claim for damages by a mother whose son died in a road crash six years ago. Simon Calascione, aged 20, of Basing, East Sussex, died just before Christmas 1985 when his motor cycle and a car collided. Mr Justice French has heard that Judith Calascione, aged 54, has continued to suffer "pathological grief reaction".

## England ahead

England has the lead in the Rapid Chess Team Tournament at Cannes after winning all four of its fourth round games against France. Results (English names first): Nunn beat Kouatli; Adams beat Renet; Chandler beat Santo Roman; and Hodgson beat Mitrile. Team scores with two rounds to go: England 11½ points out of 16; US and The Netherlands 9 points; France 2½.

## 'No cab rape'

Scotland Yard has dropped investigations into allegations by a woman that she was raped at gunpoint by the driver of a black cab in Wood Green, north London, on February 14, following scientific tests and other enquiries. She will not face charges for wasting police time. Police said they were making public their decision to alleviate anxiety among women who used taxis.

## Hatton switch

The trial of Derek Hatton, former deputy leader of Liverpool city council, and six others on charges of conspiracy to defraud the council will take place at Mold crown court, Cheshire. The Crown Prosecution Service has transferred the case from Liverpool crown court "in the interests of justice", taking into account that the alleged victims were the city of Liverpool and its citizens.

## Husband guilty of acid bath murder

A MAN was convicted yesterday of murdering his wife by putting her in a tank of acid. Cecil Jackson, who had admitted manslaughter, will be sentenced today.

Mr Justice Hadden, in the Central Criminal Court, London, said that he was considering making a recommendation to the Home Secretary about the minimum length of time Jackson should serve in prison.

Jackson, aged 37, a builder, of Forest Gate, east London, had denied murdering his wife, Dassa, aged 30, and claimed that she had stumbled into the acid tank. The jury of eight men and four women unanimously found him guilty, after deliberating for nearly five hours.

Earlier, the court had been told that Jackson had deliberately planned to throttle his wife and dump her body in a vat of hydrochloric acid inside a locked garage. He had taken out a £51,000 life insurance policy on her a week before.

The court was told that Mrs Jackson was not dead when he plunged her into the tank

acid. Her lips blistered, her eyes became colourless, her clothes melted away and her dark skin peeled and turned white. Two people heard her cries for help and broke open the padlocked garage. They found her on the floor in a pool of liquid with acid tank steaming behind her.

During spells of consciousness, she said that she knew she was dying and told an ambulancewoman that her husband had done it. She died in hospital two hours later.

Jackson claimed that he was provoked and was suffering from diminished responsibility at the time. He said that he throttled his wife in a fit of jealous rage after he spotted her talking to another man in a van. As she went limp in his hands, he believed he had killed her, panicked and drove her to his garage to hide her. He said that he had not put her in the acid tank.

Jackson defended himself after sacking four sets of solicitors and counsel. He was shaking and slumped in his chair in the dock after the jury announced their verdict.

## Dons clash in an uncivil war

BY ANDREW PIERCE

A HIGH table dispute over the reading of key documents from the English Civil War has deeply divided dons at Cambridge University. The increasingly bitter debate has leaked into the public domain with interventions in *The Times Literary Supplement* and historical journals from distinguished historians, including Lord Russell and Lord Dacre.

At the centre of the dispute is John Adamson, a fellow of Peterhouse, Cambridge, who has clashed with Mark Kishlansky, professor of history at Harvard University, over the role of the English nobility in the war.

Mr Kishlansky, in an article in the *Historical Journal*, accused Dr Adamson of manipulating evidence about the 17th-century nobility and using footnotes to disguise his errors.

Dr Adamson's supporters, who include Lord Russell, Lord Dacre and Sir Geoffrey Elton, say that Professor Kishlansky's own use of records is suspect. They reject the charge that Dr Adamson's work is full of



Historians Lord Russell, left, and Lord Dacre, who reject the charges against Dr Adamson

"tendentious errors" and insist that he is one of the most innovative historians of his generation. Lord Russell in turn accused Professor Kishlansky of the *TLS* of "malice".

At stake is Dr Adamson's re-election as a fellow at Peterhouse. A vote at the college last Monday went narrowly against the Australian-born scholar. Photocopies of the *TLS* correspondence were distributed before the vote.



Dr Adamson refuses to discuss the future of his fellowship. Of the accusations levelled against him, he says: "Most of Kishlansky's criticisms depend on misreadings of primary sources or misunderstandings of parliamentary procedures."

If Dr Adamson is ousted, there are murmurs at the high table of an appeal to the college visitor, Stephen Sykes, Bishop of Ely.

Leading article, page 15

## 200 mourners quit IRA men's funeral

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

UP TO 200 mourners at the funeral of two IRA men shot dead by the army walked out of church yesterday after a priest called for an end to the IRA's campaign of violence.

The protest came during the joint funeral of Kevin O'Donnell, aged 21, and Sean O'Farrell, aged 22, who were among four men killed outside Coalisland, Co Tyrone, on Sunday.

O'Donnell, a prime suspect in the IRA bombing of an army barracks at Tern Hill, Shropshire, three years ago, was cleared at the Old Bailey last year of gun running charges. His funeral, policed by 600 officers in riot gear, brought his home town to a standstill. About 2,500 mourners converged on the church opposite the heavily fortified police station which had been attacked by O'Donnell and seven other members of the IRA on Sunday night before the SAS ambush on the outskirts of the town in which the four men were killed. The bullet holes in the stonework and

metal protective sheeting at the front of the station were still visible.

Monsignor Liam McEntegart criticised both the army action and that of the IRA. "The standards evidenced on Sunday night are unacceptable," he said of the SAS. "If proper procedures were carried out, if what was done was within the law, then I believe serious questions must be asked."

He added: "Could I add my appeal to many others to the leaders of the paramilitary republican organisations to bring violence and killing to an end. Many of their actions, including the order that sent these young men to their deaths on Sunday night, can only be described as ill-conceived." It was then that the mourners walked out.

Earlier, the entry of the coffins into the church had been delayed because Monsignor McEntegart refused to admit them while draped in the Irish tricolour. He reluctantly agreed after the families threatened to take the bodies away.

مكتبة ابن خلدون



Maxwell: an official report gives the insurance investigators' view of the publisher's last days of life

# The search, the lost key and the stateroom

BY LIN JENKINS

ROBERT Maxwell's behaviour in his last few days was out of character and strangely indecisive, according to investigators acting for his insurers, who documented his unscheduled visit to his yacht days before he disappeared in the waters off Tenerife.

When an urgent telephone call came through to the bridge at 11.05am on November 5 last year from John Bender, vice-president of Maxwell Macmillan Inc in America, the publisher could not be found. As Captain Gus Rankin led a search of the vessel it was discovered that all doors to Maxwell's stateroom were locked. Lisa Kordalski, one of the two stewardesses, had locked the main stateroom door from the inside the previous evening and left the key in it. Captain Rankin opened it with the pass key and found the night shirt his employer had been wearing earlier abandoned on the floor. The

● A crewman saw Maxwell looking over the stern rail at about 4.10am. He was never seen alive again ●

key was never found, the assumption being that before going out on deck Maxwell himself had locked all entrances to the stateroom.

Four further searches failed to find Maxwell, and after a swimmer seen a short distance away turned out not to be him, the alarm was raised.

The insurance investigators' report says that late on October 30, six days before his death, Maxwell called his yacht in Gibraltar from his London office and said that he intended to join it the following day, thus delaying the planned start of its transatlantic crossing to Bermuda where the family were gathering at Christmas. Captain Rankin returned his call and was told by his employer that although the yacht was not ready to receive visitors that did not matter since, unusually, he was not bringing any staff or guests aboard, but merely wished to recover from a cold.

Maxwell left the Mirror building in London by helicopter and flew to Luton to pick up his private jet. He arrived in Gibraltar at 10.40am where he was met by some of the crew and transferred to his yacht the Lady Ghislaine. The vessel sailed for Madeira with Maxwell telling the crew that he would fly home from there at the weekend. He spent the time dealing with the half a dozen briefcases full of documents he had brought with him, made a number of telephone calls and appeared in a good mood "congratulating members of the crew on the upkeep of the yacht, service and standard of food despite the fact that his usual gastronomic favourites were not on board".

On the morning of Saturday November 2 the vessel

docked at Funchal, Madeira. Maxwell went ashore with Mark Atkins, one of the crew, to go shopping and seemed particularly keen on looking for a history book of the island which he could not find. He visited Reid's Hotel alone and stayed about ten minutes before going for a beer in one of the town's bars.

Returning to the yacht he expressed an interest in visiting a nearby small uninhabited island where they spent two hours. Later Maxwell dined alone on board in the evening before going ashore for a drink at a local bar with Mr Atkins. While there he noticed a casino, sent Mr Atkins to inquire about admission, and then to the yacht for his passport and \$5,000 from the safe. Mr Maxwell spent 25 minutes alone in the casino before rejoining his crew member in the bar, returning to the yacht and saying before he retired that he intended to "leave the following day".

November 3 saw the yacht make ready for her transatlantic trip, but Maxwell said he had changed his mind about leaving. He asked the captain if there was anywhere en route where he could be dropped off, and when told not, he said he would stay a few more days and they decided to make passage for the Canary Islands.

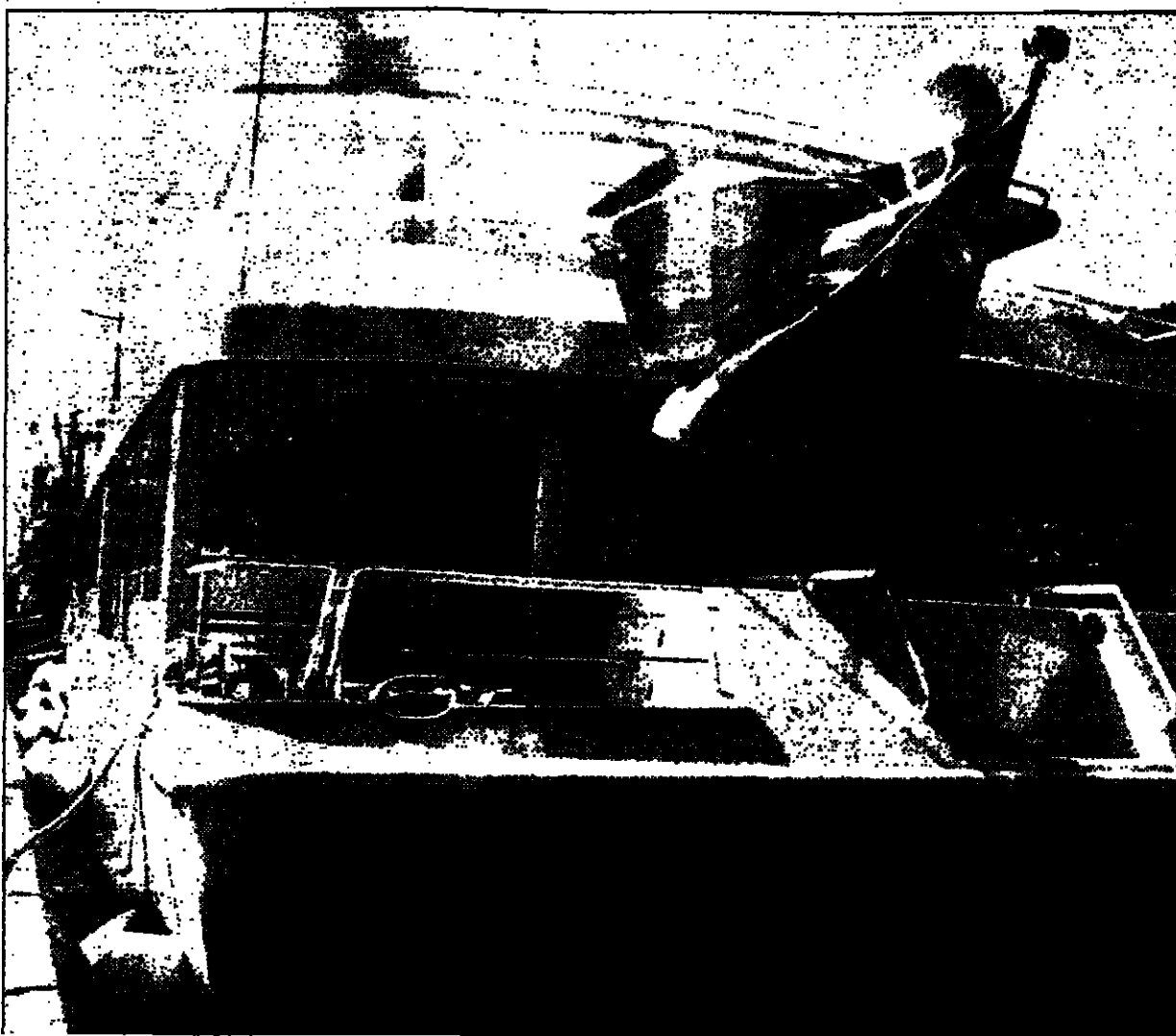
Maxwell then asked for his personal jet to fly to London to collect his two sons Kevin and Ian. The instruction was relayed to Captain Whitman, the pilot, but ten minutes later Maxwell rescinded the order. Early in the afternoon he asked the yacht to make ready to leave port and the plane to fly to Tenerife as he would be returning to London the following day. He also asked for the plane to rendezvous with the vessel before flying on.

Captain Rankin told investigators that Maxwell had

● Captain found Maxwell's nightshirt abandoned on the floor of stateroom ●

seemed irritable that morning although the flypast by his plane seemed to "humour him". "He seemed in very good spirits watching the aircraft circle the boat."

The following day, as the yacht reached Porto da Sagua in Tenerife, Maxwell told the captain that he had not decided whether to return to London that day or the next, but wanted to visit an area off shore for a swim after lunch. After swimming and relaxing the yacht returned to port and Maxwell said he would dine ashore and go home the next day. He dined alone at a hotel in Santa Cruz, returned to the ship by taxi, collected some telephone messages and instructed the crew that he wanted to spend the night at sea as it would be easier for him to sleep.



The Lady Ghislaine: Maxwell was seen looking over the stern rail towards the lights of Gran Canaria



Robert and Elisabeth Maxwell on board the Lady Ghislaine at Cannes in 1987

Maxwell retired to his stateroom as the vessel set sail. A little later he went to the pantry to complain about the exhaust fumes from the engine and the two stewardesses tried to clear the air with a fan. At 22.15 Miss Kordalski went to see if her employer required anything further. As she left through the main stateroom door Maxwell asked her to lock it and leave through the bathroom which leads to the study and through the dining area to midships.

At 23.00 Maxwell answered a satellite call from his son Ian, having said that he would accept calls only from him or Kevin. Five minutes later there was a call from Rabbi Vogel in Moscow whose insistence he gave in to.

As watches changed on the bridge in the night one of the crew, Graham Leonard, saw Maxwell looking over the stern rail towards the lights of Gran Canaria at 4.10 am. The pair exchanged greetings and in response to Maxwell's complaint that he felt warm Mr Leonard switched on the air conditioning fans. At 4.45 Maxwell rang the bridge and asked for the fans to be switched off.

Maxwell was never seen alive again. Duty inspections of the vessel continued during the night and a call from the New York office of Rothschilds at 10.30 the next morning was told that the publisher had not yet risen and was asleep. It was not until Mr Bender's call that he was found to be missing.

Captain Rankin's initial attempt to raise the alarm failed as his mayday call found no response, but he was able to contact the local port agents to relay a message to Tenerife radio station. Another call was made to Brian Hill, his immediate superior based at Farnborough aerodrome, who told him to contact Maxwell's son Ian. The publisher's disappearance was also reported to the rescue co-ordination centre at Stavanger by satellite and confirmed by telefax.

At 12.25 the mayday call was relayed to all ships, at 13.08 the first rescue helicopter reached the scene. At 17.50 a body was spotted in the area. At 18.15 the naked corpse of Robert Maxwell was winched on board a helicopter with the help of five men and flown to Gando airfield, Las Palmas on Grand Canary.

## Suicide considered to be strongest theory

BY LIN JENKINS

THE possibility that Robert Maxwell died of natural causes is dismissed by the report as unlikely, in spite of the fact that he was obese and showed signs of physical deterioration consistent with a man of his age.

HEART ATTACK  
Examining the various theories the loss adjusters say that although it is impossible to exclude the possibility of a heart attack "the evidence lacks a number of vital parameters which would make the diagnosis of a sudden cardiac death a probable or even a likely cause".

Although the problems that beset Maxwell and his companies, of which he, at least, must have been aware, could have been conducive to a heart attack it would have been more likely that he had fallen down on deck. "We are quite certain that he could not have rolled from the deck into the sea," the report says.

MURDER  
The possibility of murder is considered but although it cannot be excluded from a pathological point of view "there is no other evidence to suggest homicide". The report says that a third party boarding would be highly improbable and none of the crew is implicated. "There is simply no evidence to suggest that Robert Maxwell was murdered."

ACCIDENT  
Looking at the theory that the death was an accident the report says: "In the same way we cannot perceive that Robert Maxwell fell into the sea as a result of a heart attack, we hold considerable doubt that he fell into the sea accidentally unless he was leaning well

over the side and thus exposing himself to considerable danger." The sea on the night was calm. "There was no question that Maxwell could have lost his balance in the motion of the vessel."

Any such fall would also not be consistent with the shoulder and adjacent spinal muscle injuries found in the post mortem examination.

SUICIDE  
This theory gains most support from the investigators. While ruling out the possibility that he jumped overboard, his injuries were consistent with climbing over the deck rail and hanging on to it with his left hand. "The physical injuries, whilst not conclusive



Ghislaine Maxwell: held in high esteem

with suicide, certainly do not exclude it and are more compelling than any other cause." While no drugs or alcohol were taken, the investigators believe that there were changes in Maxwell's personality and behaviour patterns around the time of his death. It was unusual for him to be



Ian Maxwell, above, and Kevin Maxwell



## Private report on tycoon points to drowning

BY LIN JENKINS

DR Iain West, one of the country's leading pathologists, who conducted a second post-mortem examination on Robert Maxwell's body hours before it was interred in Israel, believes he probably died from drowning.

In a private report prepared for insurers holding a £20 million life policy on the publisher, Dr West concludes that he can find no clearly defined cause of death. However, in carefully examining all the theories against his findings he finds other explanations unlikely.

Dr West found difficulties in fully exploring the possibility of a heart attack because of the work already carried out by Spanish pathologists during the first post-mortem and the partial embalming. However, he concludes: "In summary the deceased's cardiac status is such that he had undoubtedly suffered from a degree of ischemic myocardial damage but there is no evidence to indicate that this is more than a potential cause of death."

He adds that if he had suffered a heart attack he would have fallen down and not rolled into the sea. It would also not be consistent with the tearing of muscles in his back. While he found evidence of lung disease Dr West did not believe it substantially increased Maxwell's risk of dying through accidental causes while at sea level.

The number of minor abrasions found on the body also could not be fully assessed. However, injuries to the legs could have been caused in the water by floating objects or the hull of the boat. Tearing and bleeding of muscles in the back of the shoulder "suggests that the deceased has, at some point, been hanging on to an object with his left hand with all of his weight being carried by that hand. This could occur, for instance, in a person who is hanging vertically from a rail with his body freely suspended."

Dr West presents a number of explanatory scenarios. If Maxwell was hanging on to the rail trying to prevent himself falling in, "in such a large and unfit man the muscular effort required to hoist his body back onto the boat could cause the damage seen here." Alternatively, he could have overbalanced and fallen in but managed to grab the rail as he fell.

Maxwell would not have sustained his injuries if he had allowed himself to fall over, unless he climbed over the railing and slipped while still holding the rail. "One



West: drowning most likely cause of death

sees this pattern of injury on occasions in individuals who kill themselves as a result of falling from high buildings. Whilst some will jump or let themselves topple over a balcony or out of a window, others will actually ease themselves over the edge and hold on for a time with one or both hands before letting go."

Muscle tears result from violent muscular activity and are seen in individuals who are suffering from severe convulsions. "It is our view however, that they would not have resulted from convulsions in the water, from impact with the water or from any attempt to swim."

The possibility of homicide can also not be totally excluded, particularly since a man of such size, being unfit, could easily have been pushed in to the water.

Fluid found in the lung "is not diagnostic of drowning", says Dr West, but he concludes that the pattern of injuries leave the post-mortem examination team without a clearly defined cause of death. "Whilst the deceased did suffer from cardiac disease and we cannot exclude it as being a factor in his death, we are of the opinion that the most likely cause of death is drowning."

## Much of missing £458m unlikely to be recovered

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE MAXWELL company pension funds have lost £458 million, almost two thirds of their value, and much of this is "probably irrecoverable", according to liquidators.

In a statement Neil Cooper, the provisional liquidator of Bishopsgate Investment Management, the company that managed funds from six Maxwell pensions, has disclosed that he has been able to secure assets worth only £237 million out of a total of £695 million.

The figure confirms the fears of the 32,000 contributors to the pension schemes. Mirror Group Newspapers, which operated the largest pension fund, reiterated its commitment to ensure full payments to all MGN pensioners and existing employees through a new fund.

The statement from Mr Cooper, of the accountants

Robson Rhodes, shows that Robert Maxwell used pension fund assets worth £217 million as security on loans to his private companies. Assets worth another £239 million were liquidated and the money diverted to Maxwell's private companies.

The money is then thought to have been used in an illegal attempt to support the share price of Maxwell Communications Corporation through anonymous offshore trusts. MCC has been placed in administration and its shares are worthless. Mr Cooper's statement admits that the liquidated funds paid into the private companies are probably irrecoverable.

The confirmation that Maxwell's banks hold pension fund assets worth £217 million sets the scene for a lengthy legal dispute over their ownership. Mr Cooper

said he had "not yet formed a view as to my ability to seek recoveries from third parties" and would only do so when he completed his investigation. It seems however that he and the banks will clash over the ownership of the assets.

Mr Cooper said the total pension fund should have been worth £695 million, compared with the £727 million estimate he published when he was appointed in December. He blamed the difference on a fall in the value of the funds' equities and property investments.

Of the remaining funds, only £111 million remains in the Common Investment Funds, BIM's main vehicle. £126 million was held by outside managers, including Invesco MIM, Capel-Cure Myers and Lloyds Bank.

Mr Cooper's investigation into the whereabouts of the



Cooper: secured assets worth £237 million

missing money is almost complete. His statement said only £2 million remained untraced. During his investigation he is interviewing many of BIM's former directors, including Kevin Maxwell.

Mr Cooper returned to the High Court yesterday for a private interrogation of Larry Trachtenberg, a former director of BIM.

## Auditor urges pension fund protection laws

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

LEGISLATION should be introduced to protect the 11 million British employees paying occupational pension schemes and 10 million pensioners, the chartered accountant Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte said yesterday.

The company, which acted as auditor for the Maxwell firms in Britain, has drawn up a briefing document on pensions, but publication was delayed until Brandon Gough, the Coopers Deloitte chairman, had given evidence to the Commons social security committee on pensions. The committee has been looking at the Maxwell pension schemes. "Despite much public debate and pensions legislation in recent years, the Maxwell affair has highlighted the inadequate legislative framework for the protection on pension funds," Coopers Deloitte says.

The briefing document,

Protecting pensions: our draft agenda for change, has been sent to the Securities and Investments Board, the Commons social security committee on pensions and the chartered accountant's clients. "The great majority of pension schemes are well managed but, recently, there has been a small but worrying succession of cases involving the misappropriation of pension fund assets," the document says.

"In addition, in some pension schemes there is considerable uncertainty surrounding the rights of members and employers. We believe that legislative action is required to ensure that all pensioners' rights are clarified and protected, while safeguarding the interest of the responsible employer."

Paul Meins, a partner at Coopers Deloitte, said that

when Cork Gully had recently been appointed as receiver to a company, it discovered that the whole pension fund had been lent back to the firm after a management buy-out. Only £16 was left to provide pensions for a few hundred people instead of the £500,000 that should have been allocated.

Coopers Deloitte says this could not happen if an independent trustee was appointed with the power to veto any investment or loan decision. The trustee should also choose its own actuary and auditor. The accountant would like pension funds to hold annual general meetings for members and have the power to disqualify trustees if they fail a "fit and proper" test. Coopers Deloitte believes a new pensions act is needed to bring in the changes, which could take five years to implement.

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## Drastic measures needed to revive glory of royal parks

BY JOHN YOUNG



Jenkins: insidious damage over 40 years

A NEW agency is needed to take over the management of London's royal parks from the environment department, a report published yesterday says. The agency should embark on a programme of restoration and improvement, including drastic traffic measures, to be completed by 2000.

The report, from a review group set up last July by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, recommends that Speakers' Corner, in Hyde Park, should be restored as a national landmark by

being reintegrated with Marble Arch, from which it is presently separated by traffic.

The impact of vehicles should be further reduced by closing North Carriage Drive in Hyde Park and Horse Guards Road in St James's Park. The underground car park off Park Lane should be deepened to accommodate coaches.

Although the group was asked to look at the future of the royal parks as a whole, its main emphasis is on Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, which were felt to be at the greatest risk from traffic, development, commercial exploitation

### The main recommendations:

- Restoring Speakers' Corner as a national landmark
- Introducing parking charges and limiting commercial events

- Banning traffic from North Carriage Drive, in Hyde Park, and Horse Guards Road, in St James's
- Renewing paths and cycle ways. Undertaking widespread restoration

and the loss of their best features. The eight royal parks in the London area are Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, St James's Park, Green Park, Bushy, Richmond and Greenwich.

Dame Jennifer Jenkins, the group's chairman, said that its members had been struck by the extent to which these open spaces in the heart of London had been insidiously damaged over the past 40 years. In addition to the proposed road closures, which would have to be subjected to engineering assessments, parking

charges should be introduced to deter commuters and shoppers and to free space for genuine visitors, she said.

In Hyde Park, the tradition of royal and national celebrations should continue, but large-scale commercial events such as last year's Pavarotti concert and festival of food and farming should be permitted only occasionally. A programme of summer music should be introduced. There should be no additional formal sports facilities, but there could be more routes for cyclists.

The report estimates that replacement of the present Serpentine restaurant could cost up to £2 million, and repairs and improvement to the Lido about £750,000. Other proposals, including landscaping of the Italian gardens and the surroundings of Kensington Palace and the renewal of paths and cycle ways could amount to a further £1.2 million. These costs would be partly met by revenue from parking charges, estimated at £750,000 a year.

Royal Parks Review (Department of the Environment, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB)

## Computer ruling puts a million poll tax orders in jeopardy

BY DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

ALMOST one million poll tax liability orders may have been invalidated by a High Court ruling that computer records cannot be used as evidence of non-payment, lawyers said last night.

In a test case on the admissibility of computerised poll tax records, Lord Justice Jowitt said that they were "hearsay evidence" and could not be used as proof of non-payment.

Yesterday's ruling follows decisions by magistrates in London, Suffolk and Kent to reject computerised evidence in poll tax cases. It will be binding on magistrates' courts in England and Wales.

The High Court ordered magistrates at Coventry to reconsider liability orders granted against David Bullard, aged 36, an engineering buyer, and his wife

Eleanor, aged 37, a civil servant.

The judges refused to waive the rule under which challenges to liability orders must be brought within three months, and dismissed an appeal by Martin Blatchford, aged 31, of Dudley, West Midlands. He had sought to challenge a suspended two-week sentence imposed for failing to pay £86.80 poll tax on the grounds that a liability order made last September had been invalid.

Although local authorities welcomed the decision to uphold the three-month rule, it said that up to one million liability orders granted since the end of November last year could be in jeopardy.

The government has already announced that it will change the law to make computer records admissible as evidence in court, but the new

rules will not become law until the middle of next month.

Councils are expected to cease action against defaulters until the new rules come into force. The Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities said that the delay would cost £3 million a week.

Giving judgment yesterday, Lord Justice Jowitt said that although an official from Coventry city council, Ian Ryder, had given sworn evidence that Mr and Mrs Bullard had not paid, his evidence was based solely on a computer print-out.

The judge said that Mr Ryder's evidence was "pure hearsay" as was not based on his own knowledge. The information contained in the print-out had been "implanted by humans" and was inadmissible as evidence.

"The computer print-out relied upon by the city council was inadmissible to prove what had to be proven and accordingly the council could not have discharged the evidential burden which was upon them," he said.

In consequence, the magistrates could not in law have made the two liability orders. Accordingly they stand liable to be quashed," Lord Justice Jowitt said in allowing the appeal.

After the hearing Mr Bullard said: "We think we have shown what went on in Coventry magistrates' court is not good for justice — not just for ourselves and the people who have gone through that court, but up and down the country where cases have been pushed through with undue haste without proper attention being paid to people's rights."

Mr Bullard and his wife owe about £690 each in two years' unpaid poll tax. Asked if he would now pay he replied: "That wasn't the question at issue. The question was whether the city council had proved their case and it seems from this they haven't."

Steve Nally, secretary of the All Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation, said: "This judgment opens up the potential for thousands of appeals. Unfortunately the three-month deadline means that over 7.5 million people will be denied natural justice."

David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, said that the government had known about the potential legal loophole since last summer and should have acted sooner to close it.



Rubber reverend: Juliette Cahn of Bonhams mops the brow of Ian Paisley's latex double, created for TV's *Spitting Image* and expected to fetch up to £500 at the London auction house's modern British picture sale on March 11

## Surplus Chieftains shipped home

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE first British armoured regiment in Germany to lose its tanks under the government's defence cuts sent home 30 Chieftains yesterday. The tanks went by rail from Detmold, in northwest Germany, to Antwerp, from where they will be shipped to Britain and then put in storage.

The return home of the 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars' tanks is one of many losses facing the 233-year-old regiment over the next few months.

The regiment is to be amalgamated with the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) in the autumn, as a result of which it will lose its individual identity. It will also lose its royal colonel-in-chief, Princess Margaret, and its commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Braithwaite. The commander of the merged regiments, to be called the Light Dragoons, is expected to be the commanding officer of the 13th/18th.

The last ten Chieftains out of a total of about 60 belonging to the 15th/19th, presently based at Detmold, will have been withdrawn by April.

The Light Dragoons, however, will stay in Germany but become an armoured reconnaissance regiment, equipped with Scimitar light tanks.

Under the government's plan to create a "smaller but better equipped" army for the 1990s, manpower will fall from 156,000 to 116,000. The British pres-

ence in Germany is also being reduced by more than half, as part of the programme to change Nato forces from large standing armies into more mobile, multinational units. The Light Dragoons will be assigned to the new rapid reaction corps which is to be commanded by Lieutenant General Sir Jeremy Mackenzie.

The 900 Chieftain and Challenger tanks in Germany are to be reduced by 50 to 60 per cent. The withdrawal of soldiers and tanks will be in three stages. The first 15,000 servicemen will be out by September and the remaining 21,000 to be withdrawn will be home by mid-1995.

The 15th/19th, whose motto is "We shall be worthy of our honours", is expected to move to the British garrison at Hohn, near the site of the Belsen concentration camp, when the amalgamation is completed. The 13th/18th is now based at Wolfenbüttel, in Lower Saxony.

More than 300 of the 15th/19th are at present serving a six-month emergency tour in Cyprus as part of the United Nations peacekeeping force.

The fate of the army's discarded Chieftains has not yet been decided. Many of them are expected to be stored at an ordnance depot near Andover or used for target practice on Salisbury Plain. Some will also have to be destroyed under the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty.

## Building society seized flat in error

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE Nationwide building society has apologised to one of its customers after mistakenly repossessing his flat.

Earlier this month, the building society instructed the estate agents Folkard and Hayward to change the locks on the doors of Peter Holmes's flat in West Hampstead, northwest London. It believed that the flat had been abandoned by Mr Holmes, who was £11,000 in arrears with his £55,000 mortgage.

Mr Holmes, aged 40, who has been unemployed for several months, returned to the ground-floor flat later that day. He got inside by breaking a kitchen window, cutting himself in the process.

"There was no sign of any note," Mr Holmes said. "It was dreadful. I hardly ate or slept for a couple of nights, wondering what had happened. It didn't occur to me at first that the building society might be responsible. They had made no attempt to contact me."

In cases of abandonment, building societies do not usually inform the customer of impending repossession. Mr Holmes discovered that the Nationwide was responsible only when he found an estate agent's circular two days later notifying the other residents in the house that the flat had been repossessed.

He contacted the building society, which sent him a letter apologising "unreservedly". It also sent him a cheque for £250 to cover the cost of changing the locks and mending the broken window.

The Nationwide said: "This was a very unfortunate mistake, particularly in light of all the efforts we are making to talk to borrowers who are experiencing difficulties with their mortgage."

Homes, L&T section, page 6

## Post Office launches charter

The Post Office, which is delivering nine out of ten first class letters the day after they are posted, has promised further improvements to its service in a new customer's charter, launched yesterday (David Young writes).

The charter will be sent to all 24 million United Kingdom households from April. It promises to give customers regular details of local delivery services and of waiting times in post offices compared with targets. Detailed responses to most complaints are promised within ten working days.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, the Post Office chairman, said that counter waiting times, a big complaint in the past, were now shorter than at the average bank, building society or supermarket. The target was for 95 per cent of customers to wait no more than five minutes, even at peak times.

## Briton's body found in sea

The British embassy in Morocco is investigating the death of a British businessman whose body was found floating in the sea off Western Sahara. The body of a second man who had been on a boat with him has also been recovered, but there is no sign of the boat or of its skipper.

The Briton, Keith Appleton, aged 43, of Wadebridge, Cornwall, an undischarged bankrupt, was wanted by British police for failing to pay more than £3,000 in fines and costs after being convicted of fraud in 1989.

## Locked out

British Waterways has closed a flight of 29 locks on the Kennet and Avon canal at Devizes, Wiltshire, because of low water levels. It will remain shut for four months unless there is heavy rain.

## Medieval find

A pilot taking aerial photographs of Roman settlements near Swindon, Wiltshire, discovered the site of the medieval Wyke settlement, for which archaeologists had been hunting for 30 years.

## Alarm success

Four sisters were rescued from a fire at their home in Warwick when the alarm was raised by newly fitted smoke detector. Firemen hauled them out of an upstairs window.

## Called to book

Sean Flynn, aged 21, of Northwood, northwest London, was remanded on bail by Uxbridge magistrates after admitting making a hoax bomb call. He gave the operator his correct name and address.

## Late payer

A former seaman, aged 71, has sent the Salvation Army £5 for a meal it gave him in 1939. "Please forgive this late payment," he wrote.

## Workshop clue to kidnap

BY PETER DAVENPORT

THE kidnapper of Stephanie Slater may have held her prisoner at his place of work, police said yesterday. They said that although the estate agent heard voices just a few feet away during her eight day ordeal she decided not to call out in case it put her life in danger.

Tom Cook, assistant chief constable of West Yorkshire police, said that the man may have used a warehouse, former colliery, brickworks, railway shed or engineering works.

Detectives were hoping that an appeal on the BBC programme *Crimewatch* last night would produce further evidence. The programme disclosed details of the car thought to have been used by the kidnapper and a tape-recording of his voice delivering ransom instructions.

Mr Cook said the building may have been some sort of workshop, where people called in to either pick up or drop off items. Visitors may have entered just a small area of a large building and did not go into the rear, where Miss Slater was held.

The location may have been the kidnapper's place of work, said Mr Cook, as he clearly had a detailed knowledge of the premises.

## Hostage accused of plot

A MAN who was shot in the hand after being held at gunpoint in a 30-hour car siege was accused yesterday of arranging his own kidnapping.

Newport crown court was told that Donald Stewart had suggested the kidnap plan to his lover's husband, Roger Amos, to resolve a domestic wrangle arising from the break-up of the Amos marriage. Mr Stewart, a company director aged 40, denied the allegation.

John Charles Rees, defending Mr Amos, said that Mr Stewart had agreed to the plan in a telephone call. He told him: "You talked a little about what would happen and when it would happen and you agreed to sort out the details later."

Mr Rees said that the men arranged the time that Mr Stewart should be taken hostage outside the house in Newport where he lived with Amos's estranged wife, Linda. Mr Stewart denied all the allegations.

Mr Amos denied attempted murder, kidnapping, false imprisonment, possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life, wounding with intent and unlawful wounding. He admits two charges of arson and shortening the barrel of a shotgun.

The case continues today.

## Doctor orders sweet reason

THE sweet-toothed should not despair. Not only can "naughty but nice" food, in moderation, be compatible with a healthy diet, but tooth decay owes less to what you eat than to what toothpaste you use, a conference of the biscuit, cake and chocolate industry was told yesterday.

Dr Roger Whitehead, chairman of the government committee which produced last year's report on how to achieve a healthy diet, told delegates people need not forgo chocolates, pastries, biscuits and cakes on health grounds, as long as they were part of a balanced diet.

Yet he also challenged the industry, valued at £1.6 billion a year, to learn by the experience of its American counterparts and by other food sectors to produce "low-fat" versions of popular sweet, cake and biscuit brands.

Dr Whitehead, who headed the panel of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy, whose report last July advised less sugar and fat and more fruit, vegetables and cereals for a healthier British

Louise Hidalgo finds that she can have her cake and eat it, providing she brushes afterwards with fluoride toothpaste

average daily intake of sugar to 12 teaspoons, the amount of fat from 40 to 35 per cent of calories, and the amount of saturated fats from 16 per cent of food energy to 11.

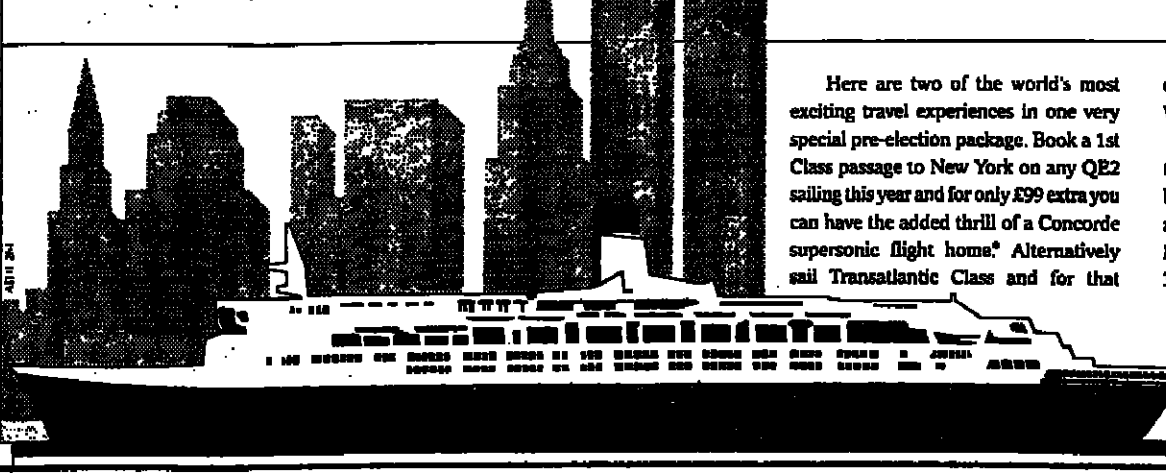
"We have to be realistic. We cannot expect people to give up chocolates and chips. But we can help make it as easy as possible for them to achieve balance."

He urged delegates at the annual Biscuit, Cake, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance conference, who included representatives from the leading confectionery, biscuit and cake manufacturers, to modify their ranges to include products low in saturated fat and high in fibre.

The conference also heard that the decline of tooth decay in the UK in recent years was due mainly to the use of fluoride in toothpaste. Dr Maureen Edmondson, manager of scientific affairs for Mars, said an experiment at a French school had shown tooth decay decreased by between 50 and 70 per cent over two years after daily cleaning with fluoride toothpaste.

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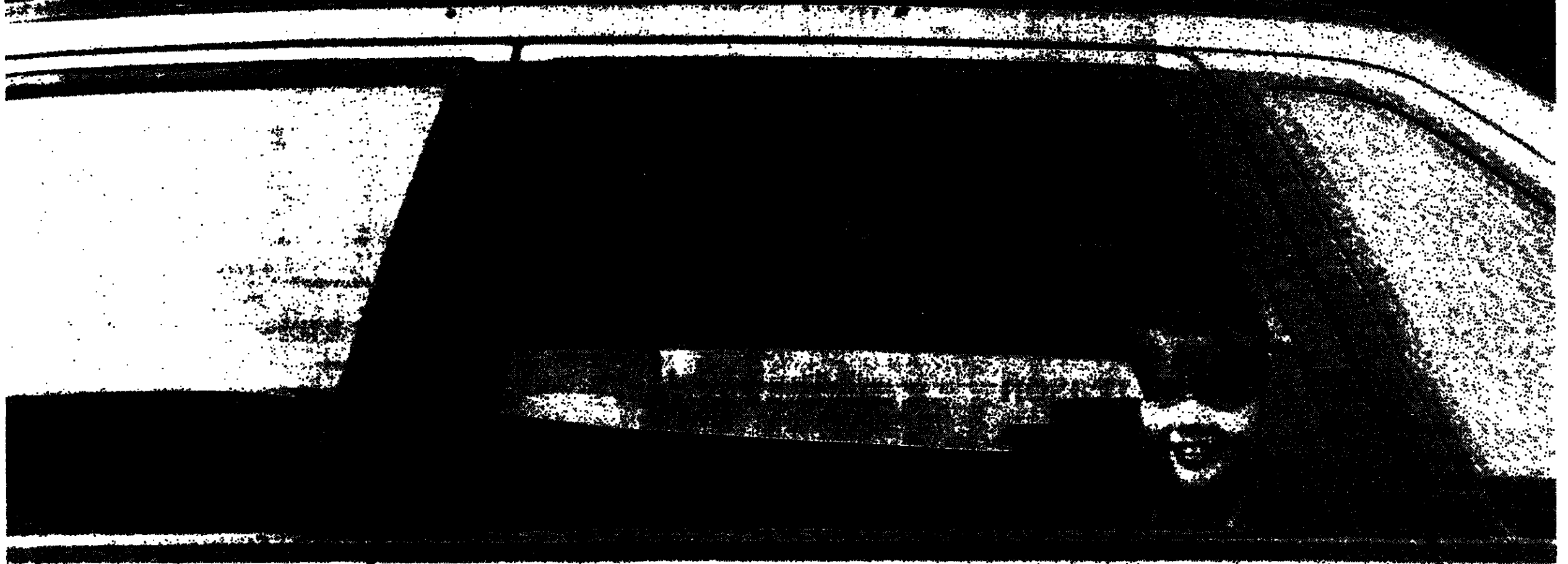
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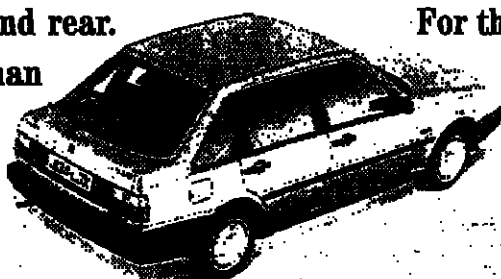
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## Major blamed for causing recession

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

NEIL Kinnock greeted yesterday's official figures confirming the longest recession since the 1930s and a 2.5 per cent drop in GDP last year by accusing John Major of being "not only the prime minister of recession but the prime cause of recession".

Accusing him of "groping around" to find excuses for failure, Mr Kinnock repeated what he was seeking to make a campaign slogan: "Majorism isn't working".

With opinion polls showing that only 9 per cent of people blame the Major government for recession, Labour is losing no opportunity to point out that the prime minister was Chancellor when the recession began.

In bitter Commons question time exchanges, Mr Major insisted that not just Britain but the world was suffering from economic slowdown. He claimed that the right circumstances for recovery were in place, with lower interest rates, lower mortgage rates and lower inflation. And he said: "The people of this country won't let you throw that away."

Earlier, cabinet ministers urged Mr Kinnock, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to press ahead with tax cuts as Mr Lamont reported on the Budget background. The mood was said to be one of "realism" as he reminded them that under the autumn statement provisions, some £7 billion extra of public spending would begin on April 1.

Ministers were understood to have taken the view that the

markets would accept an increase in public borrowing to more than £20 billion to facilitate tax cuts. Officially the cabinet was said to have endorsed the options set out by the Chancellor.

Earlier Tony Newton, the social services secretary, and Mr Lamont, bitterly attacked Labour's plans for an extension of taxation on savings, arguing that they would hit those who had retired early, those who had been made redundant and widows dependent on the income from insurance payouts.

Mr Newton accused Labour of launching "an old-fashioned class war against an ever-growing army of savers and inheritors". Mr Lamont said: "We can do without Labour's pickpocket National Insurance tax. And we can do without their envy tax on savings."

Mr Lamont said that Labour's planned 9 per cent tax on savings incomes above £3,000 a year would hit 1.1 million non-pensioner taxpayers, 750,000 of them on the basic rate. Many would have incomes less than £21,000 a year, breaking Mr Kinnock's pledge that nobody below that level would face a tax increase. Mr Newton said that 750,000 basic rate taxpayers, mostly those who had retired early, would lose an average of £5.40 a week. Another 360,000 higher rate taxpayers would lose an average of £34 a week.

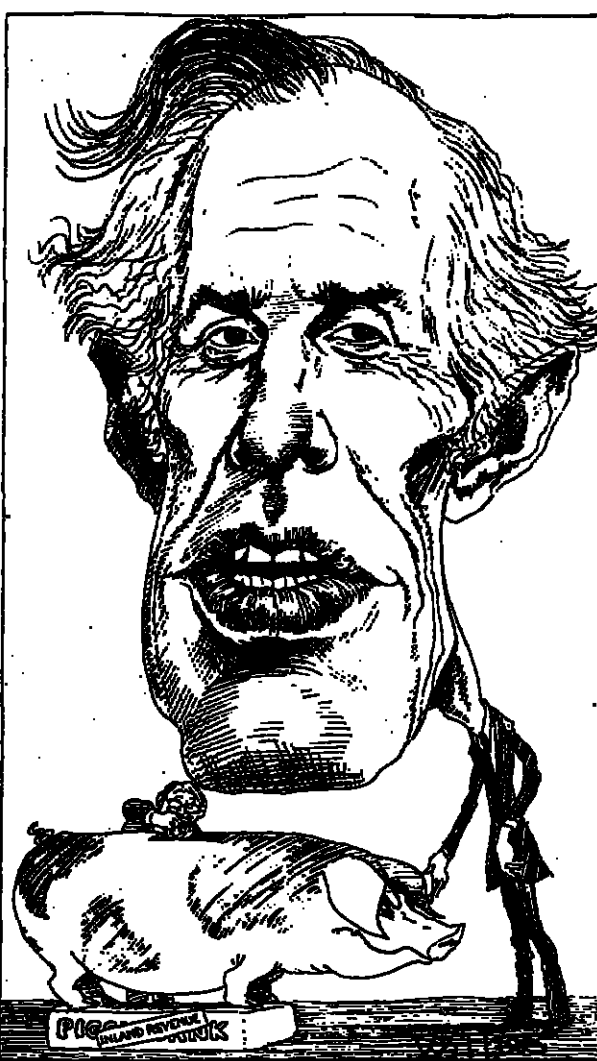
In the Commons Mr Kinnock recalled Mr Major saying a year ago that "our

policies are working", adding that since then the British economy had contracted by 2.5 per cent and unemployment had risen by 750,000.

With Labour denying government claims of a world recession, the prime minister countered that between 1981 and 1991 the British economy had grown faster than the economies of all the other European countries. "Taking the last year as a whole, industrial production fell more in Japan and more in Germany, than in the UK. Why do you think that is, if you blame me for everything?"

John Smith, the shadow chancellor, said: "Today's figures reveal that 1990-1 has been the worst single year of recession since the 1930s. These figures are proof positive of the unacceptable price of Conservative economic mismanagement."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said: "Our economy is in a mess because the government has created the second recession in a decade. New figures on growth show that recovery is as far away as ever."



Raising the alarm: Tony Newton highlights Labour's plans to tax savings above £3,000

## Minister alerted to drug risks

By PETER MULLIGAN

ALARM at the dangers from the drug "Ecstasy" reached the Commons yesterday as ministers were urged to take action to stop its spread.

John Patten, Home Office minister of state, acknowledged that Ecstasy can kill by causing lung failure, and said there was evidence linking it to psychotic problems. There were five deaths last year.

He said the drug mostly came from abroad after successes by the UK police who had closed down four manufacturers. Under pressure from Labour to justify the decision to cut 400 customs officers' jobs, he told MPs there had been record seizures of Ecstasy this year.

Mr Patten said a new European-wide drugs intelligence unit would lead to closer police links, while 17 drug prevention teams were in place in areas where Ecstasy and other drugs were used in large amounts.

Mr Patten promised to consider another backbench suggestion that warnings of penalties for drug offences should be handed to passengers on incoming airliners.

## Poll date likely to limit Budget debate

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TORY strategists and MPs expect John Major to announce the date of the general election on Thursday, March 12, two days after the Budget.

With Westminster now unanimous in the belief that the election will be on April 9, Mr Major is believed likely to make the formal announcement after the cabinet meeting on March 12.

Nothing is firmly fixed, but under provisional plans being discussed by strategists the Commons would then be told on Thursday afternoon that the Budget debate, which by then would have been running for two days, was being curtailed.

Votes would take place that day on the key Budget resolutions governing collection of taxes, excise duties, and the continuation of tax relief on mortgage interest. The government will also want a vote on any tax cuts made in the Budget to highlight the main philosophical difference between the two main parties. Labour is committed to reversing cuts in the basic rate.

The Finance Bill implementing the Budget would be pushed through in one day,

on the Friday, after a guillotine motion limiting debate. The Conservative central council in Torquay and the Labour Scottish conference in Edinburgh will give Mr Major and Neil Kinnock the chance to send their parties into battle. The Commons would then be prorogued on the Monday, March 16, the last possible day to enable the statutory minimum election campaign period.

Labour leaders are predicting chaos over parliamentary business because of the government's decision to have the Budget on March 10 rather than March 3, which they say would have allowed a more orderly dissolution of Parliament. There will be claims of "constitutional outrage" over the shortening of the Budget debate and the rushing through of the Finance Bill.

John MacGregor, the Commons leader, stone-walled yesterday when his Labour shadow John Cunningham demanded an assurance that the Budget demanded would not be truncated in the event of an April 9 election.



### Labour to replace secrets act

A Labour government will introduce a right to information act in its first year, Roy Hattersley said yesterday. The legislation has already been drawn up.

Speaking at a newspaper awards presentation in London, Mr Hattersley said the bill was based on the principle that all public information must be freely available unless it could be shown to be detrimental to the security of the state or the welfare of private individuals. It would replace the Official Secrets Act.

### New sentences

Since February 1989, when the law was changed, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney-general, has referred 69 cases to the Court of Appeal because he thought the sentence too lenient. In 36 cases already dealt with, the sentence was increased; in ten it was unchanged. Seven were withdrawn.

### Europe's price

Each person will pay about £21 towards the EC budget this financial year, the Treasury estimates. Next year, according to a written answer from Francis Maude, the financial secretary, the net contribution will be about £50 a person.

### 44,000 in jail

The average prison population in England and Wales last year was 44,808, Angela Rumbold, a Home Office minister, said in a written reply.

### Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private member's bill: Referendum Bill, second reading. Lords (11): Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Bill and Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) (No 2) Bill, second readings.

### The Westminster week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be: Monday: Motion to renew prevention of terrorism act. Tuesday: Local Government Bill, remaining stages. Wednesday: Debate on inflation on a government motion. Thursday: Debate on Welsh affairs. Friday: Private member's motion on the registration of MPs' interests. The main business in the

### Millions overpaid on defence contracts

By SHEILA GUNN  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DEFENCE officials were criticised by the government's financial watchdog yesterday for overpaying contractors more than £166 million.

Although the sums were eventually recovered, the National Audit Office pointed out that the Treasury lost hundreds of thousands of pounds in interest through delays.

Sir John Bourn, the head of the audit office, called for a higher priority for improving the system of handling defence payments totalling about £24 billion a year.

The Commons public accounts committee, working on the findings of the audit office, rebuked the defence ministry for poor planning and security of new computer systems. The MPs said they were particularly concerned about the waste of £6 million on the Landscape system, which the ministry's permanent secretary, Sir Michael Quinlan, had admitted was "a sorry tale". The technology for land systems controls was started in 1984 but cancelled in 1990 because it did not fulfil the ministry's needs.

After examining the ministry's £1.5 billion information technology programmes, the committee said the cost of the learning process was sometimes "unacceptably high".

The threat of "hacking" into defence computers also alarmed MPs who called for a unified security agency to be set up as a matter of urgency.

The report said: "We enquired about the question of hacking since a whole system could be thrown into disarray if people were able to achieve access to it... The department confirmed that they were very concerned... They told us that there were government-wide arrangements for disseminating knowledge and best computer security practice."

National Audit Office: financial control over payments by the Ministry of Defence (Stationery Office £7.80)

Commons public accounts committee 13th report - Ministry of Defence: support information technology (Stationery Office £7.90)

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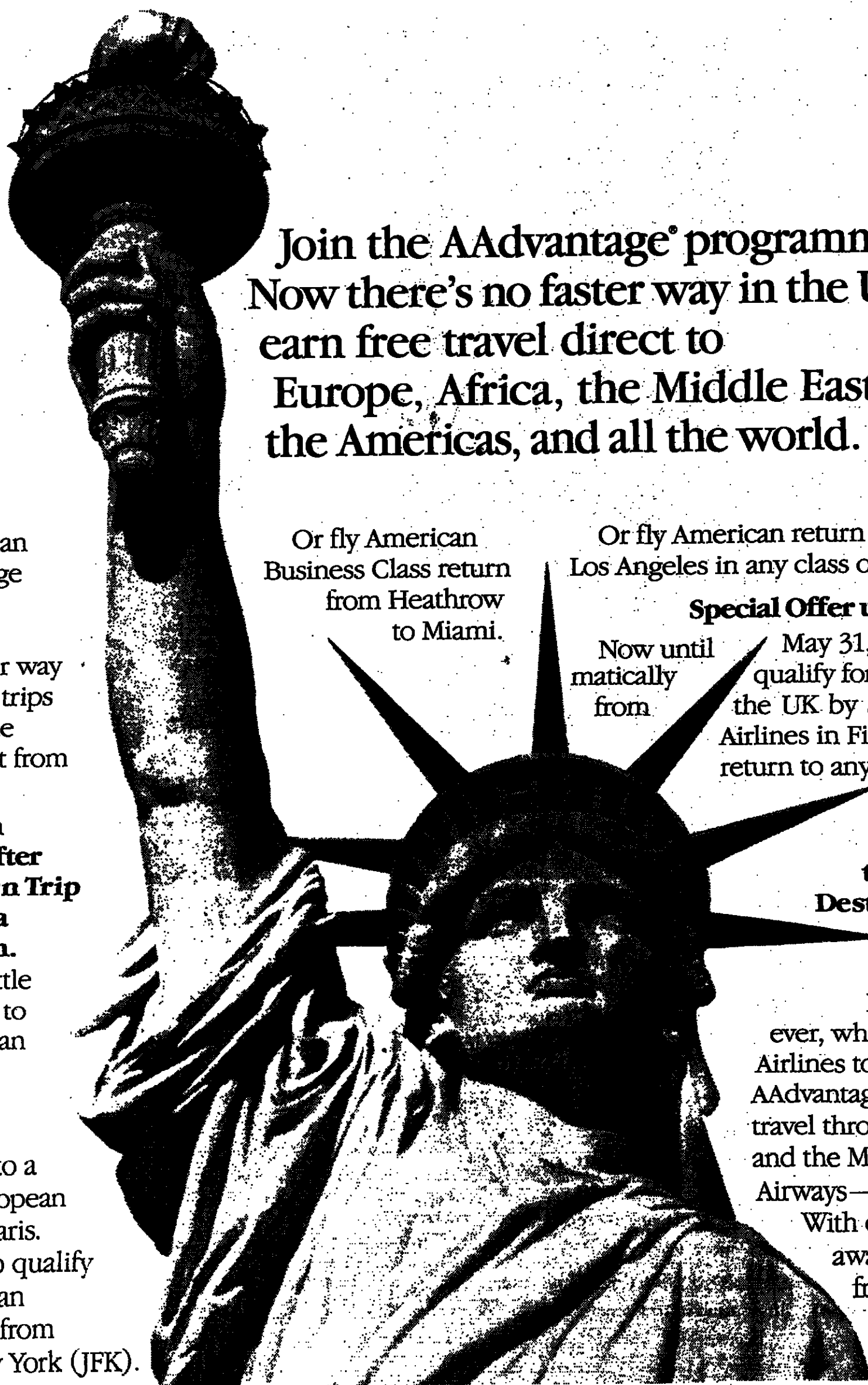
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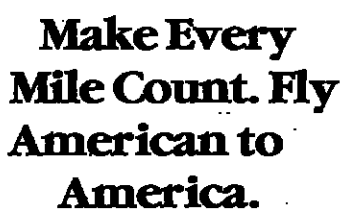
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## Pay sweetener from Yeltsin buys off army

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

BORIS Yeltsin is throwing extra public funds at Russia's disgruntled army barracks, and pledged yesterday to take tough, old-fashioned measures against state corporations that impose excessive price rises.

Both moves amount to a watering-down, though not as yet a renunciation, of the government's commitment to fiscal austerity and reliance on market forces instead of administrative fiat to influence economic behaviour. Yet Mr Yeltsin, who gave a superb display of his folksy, populist style during an hour-long television interview on Wednesday night, appears to have calculated that these concessions are necessary to

assuage discontent and reduce the risk of a coup.

Alexei Ulukayev, an adviser to Mr Yeltsin admitted that new army pay rises would add "several billion roubles a month" to a public sector deficit that, under a budget painfully steered through parliament last month, had been supposed to be held at 11 billion roubles for January to March. Yet he added that the money amounted to less than 1 per cent of GNP, and it had to be found in view of the desperate economic plight of the military.

The pay rises, under which the minimum monthly wage for junior officers nearly doubles to 1,800 roubles (£10 at the new market rate) — will seem meagre in the barracks, where living standards among junior officers and non-commissioned officers have fallen well below those of factory or clerical workers. A survey published yesterday found that huge numbers of officers had to moonlight, as anything from night-school teachers to street-cleaners, to make ends meet.

Mr Yeltsin, employing his well-honed technique of setting up scapegoats, threatened draconian measures against regional governors who failed to implement his measures to improve the welfare, and in particular the housing allowances, of servicemen. Equally popular was the cabinet yesterday to punish corporations that abused their monopoly position by decreeing excessive price rises, or else by demanding hard currency — or other sweeteners such as cars or consumer goods for the workforce — in return for deliveries.

However, in at least one respect, free-market economic policies are creating a virtuous circle: Mr Ulukayev confirmed that oil prices would be deregulated by the end of the year and said that the rouble's steady rise against the dollar would make this much easier by reducing the difference between domestic and export prices.

## Ceasefire sought in Karabakh

BY BRUCE CLARK

THE foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan, nominal partners in the new Commonwealth of Independent States, agreed last night to recommend a ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh.

After eight hours of talks under Russian mediation, Raffi Hovannianyan of Armenia and his counterpart, Hussain Sadikhov, said they both concluded that "when guns are roaring, negotiations cannot succeed".

President Yeltsin's top adviser on ethnic affairs, Galina Starovolova, expressed scepticism over the outcome of the talks, and it seemed doubtful whether the Azerbaijani minister, in particular, had the authority to deliver his side of any settlement. Azerbaijan's President Mutalibov has come under intense pressure from opposition forces to take a tough line over the disputed enclave.

Armenia's President Ter-Petrosyan was due in Moscow last night and was expected to meet Mr Yeltsin.



Secret sharers: Oleg Kalugin, right, a former general in the KGB, talking to Roman Danov, the Bulgarian national security adviser, in Bulgaria on Wednesday. Mr Kalugin, who is in Sofia to help with the enquiry into the poisoning of the Bulgarian

dissident, Georgi Markov, in 1978, claimed Bulgaria's secret service made three attempts to kill Markov, having previously tested the poison on prisoners sentenced to death. Markov, a writer and journalist, was killed in London where he

was working for the Bulgarian language section of the BBC World Service. The first assassination attempt involved poison dropped in Markov's drink in Germany, while the second was made on an unspecified Mediterranean beach by rub-

bing a poisonous ointment on his skin, Mr Kalugin said. In the third and successful attempt, a metal sphere was implanted in his thigh. Investigators have repeatedly claimed that the poison was injected with the tip of an umbrella. (AP)

## German bank staff back pay demand with strike threat

FROM PATRICK MOSER IN BONN

BANK employees in western Germany will start day-long strikes coupled with shorter work stoppages next week, union leaders announced yesterday. They were confident the action will disrupt banking activity.

The decision coincided with a renewed warning by the Bundesbank that industrial confrontation was putting jobs at risk and adding to inflationary pressure, which the central bank says it is seeking to combat by keeping lending rates at their current high levels.

Concern about the state of the German economy was increased earlier this week when the government announced that the current ac-

count plunged into a deficit of 34.2 billion marks (about £12.20 billion) in 1991. The Bonn government has forecast that the economy would pick up later in the year, but experts express doubts about the prediction, based on the assumption that the world economy will improve and that pay increases will not exceed 5 per cent.

The bank unions made the strike announcement a day after pay negotiations broke down when union officials walked out of the talks because employers refused to increase their 5 per cent offer. The unions had initially demanded 10.5 per cent, but made it clear that they would accept between 6 and 7 per

cent. "We want to achieve a maximum of disruption with a minimum of effort," Gerhard Renner, executive board member of the German Employees Union, said.

The action would consist of several full-day strikes in selected big banks and financial institutions. The union official said that hour-long warning strikes would also be held at the same time in some banks.

Western German bank employees had last participated in similar day-long strikes in 1987, successfully blocking an attempt to extend banking hours to Saturday mornings.

About 20 per cent of western Germany's bank employees are members of one of the two leading bank unions. Officials of the two unions said they were confident they would get sufficient support for the action, but hinted that employers could still come forward and make a new offer.

In a similar manner, the IG Metall union had called off a planned strike by steel workers at the last minute two weeks ago, after employers offered a 6.34 per cent increase. The government insists that pay increases should remain below 6 per cent.

## Ailing Honecker leaves embassy

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ERICH Honecker, the former East German communist leader, left his diplomatic sanctuary in the Chilean embassy in Moscow yesterday, a security guard outside the building said.

The Russian and Chilean authorities agreed to let Herr Honecker, aged 79, go to a Moscow hospital after reports that he has been suffering from cancer.

"We have been informed by the Russian government that there was a meeting with the Chilean ambassador and both sides agreed that there would be no problems regarding treatment in a Moscow hospital," Enno Barker, of the German embassy, said.

Herr Barker said that Bonn, which wants to try Herr Honecker for the manslaughter of people fleeing to the West during his rule, still wants his extradition. "We of course do not object to medical treatment, to hospitalisation if the physicians say it is necessary," he said. "If hospital treatment means that he is unable to come to Germany at the moment then our claim over Honecker is just postponed, not cancelled."

Herr Honecker, who is said by his wife, Margot, to be suffering from cancer and kidney trouble, was spirited out of Germany by the Soviet military a year ago to avoid trial. He went to the Chilean embassy in Moscow in December to seek refuge from Germany's extradition demand.

Dieter Vogel, a German government spokesman, said yesterday that Germany's relations with Moscow and Santiago would be clouded if Herr Honecker was allowed to go to Chile. Santiago is prepared to accept him because his government welcomed left-wing activists who fled from President Pinochet's military government in the 1970s. Herr Honecker and his wife want to go to Chile because their daughter lives there.

Enrique Silva Cimma, the Chilean foreign minister, said this week that a medical examination carried out at the embassy showed that Herr Honecker was very sick and doctors said he needed a liver biopsy and probably an operation.

Herr Barker suggested that if Herr Honecker was well enough to fly, he should be treated in Germany. "We have hospitals there too," he said. "We do object to him going to any third country."

## UK to sell Greece Phantom fighter

Athens: Britain will sell 32 Phantom F4 combat aircraft to Greece, in a deal described here as a move towards closer bilateral and military co-operation between the two countries (Chris Eliou writes).

Ioannis Varvitsiotis, the Greek defence minister, announced the decision after talks in London this week with Tom King, his British counterpart, and Alan Clark, the minister of defence procurement. Sources said some of the jets were still being used by the RAF, but they would be gradually withdrawn from service as a result of British defence cuts. Greek air force officers and experts will visit London to "have a look at the aircraft and consider the price" before completing the procurement procedures.

## Rouble gains

Moscow: The purchasing power of the rouble has risen again at the expense of the dollar. The Savings Bank of Russia was buying dollars for 70 roubles yesterday, a significant increase from Wednesday when a dollar cost 100 roubles. (AP)

## Belgian task

Brussels: Jean-Luc Dehaene, Belgium's communications minister, to whom King Baudouin has given the task of negotiating a coalition government, said the king had asked him to try again. The press here predicted a centre-left alignment. (Reuters)

## Istanbul blast

Istanbul: At least three people were killed and five injured when a bomb exploded at Istanbul's chamber of commerce. The bomb, planted in a basement office of the registrar, caused heavy damage. Police fear the casualty toll may rise. (Reuters)

## Mann recovers

Athens: Jack Mann, aged 77, the former hostage, has been discharged from a clinic in Nicosia where he was being treated for a lung infection and a heart complaint. Doctors said he had made a miraculous recovery.

## Chemical ban

Geneva: Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, speaking here at the UN Conference on Disarmament, urged all nations to sign a treaty banning chemical weapons, which could be ready this year. (Reuters)

## Coca tea party

Seville: Bolivia said it would give visitors to its pavilion at the Expo '92 exhibition here a taste of the plant from which cocaine is made. Callers will be offered coca tea and coca leaves to chew to show the good side of this plant. (Reuters)

## Baptists build

Stockholm: A Swedish contractor said he had reached a £285 million agreement to build 1,000 Baptist prefabricated churches in Russia. Goran Oscarsson said: "The Russians are not only hungry in their bellies but also in their souls." (Reuters)

## Work reward

Oslo: An appeal court has ordered an employer to pay more than 1 million kroner (£50,000) in damages to Thor Sornum for harassing him at work. He developed nervous problems after a sawmill foreman began repeatedly correcting him. (AP)

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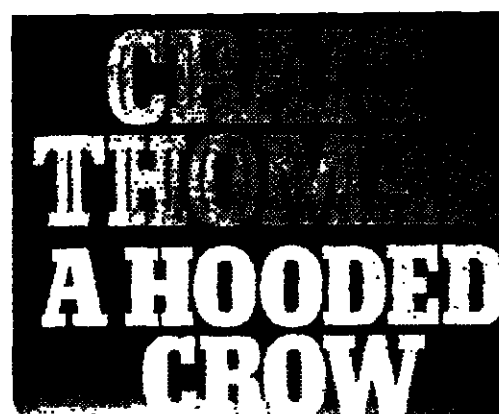
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## Blackmailing couple jailed

FROM REUTERS IN FRANKFURT

EBERHARD Thust, the German boxing promoter, was sentenced to three years in prison yesterday for blackmailing tennis star Steffi Graf's father, Peter, over a love affair with a photographer's model.

The model, Thust's live-in companion Nicole Meissner, was also imprisoned for two years for blackmail. In 1990, Peter Graf had paid Thust DM800,000 (\$485,000) to keep his affair with 23-year-old Nicole Meissner quiet. Mass-circulation newspapers

claimed at the time that Herr Graf was the father of Meissner's child, but a blood test proved this allegation to be unfounded.

Herr Graf has denied that he was pressured into paying the money, but claims that he did so voluntarily because he wanted to keep the affair out of the press in order to protect his daughter, the former world number one women's tennis player. Both Thust and Meissner said that they would be appealing against their sentences.



Meissner: blood test disproved child claim

## Paris papers feel pinch of recession

DEPRIVED of their usual morning newspapers by yesterday's 24-hour printers' strike, some Parisian commuters could even be seen leafing cautiously through the pages of English newspapers. Only the right-wing tabloid, *Le Quotidien de Paris*, made it to the kiosks in defiance of the strike ordered by the CGT union to focus attention on job losses expected over the next few years.

Seizing the moment, *Le Quotidien* (which prints independently) drew urgent attention to the "precarious" situation of the capital's newspapers, almost all of which are feeling the pinch increasingly as France's recession deepens. The CGT's foot-dragging over the introduction of new technology was damaging enough to the industry, a front-page editorial said: the apparent indifference of the public to the struggle for survival by the

press in Paris would end with the capital's newspapers "dying of neglect".

That warning came barely a week after *Le Monde*, the most august and influential of French papers, announced that last year had been another tough year, even if 1990's loss of £339 million (£4 million) was reduced by about a third. "The press is really in torment," Jacques Lesourne, its director general, said, with the stagnation of the economy cruelly reflected by a drastic fall in revenue from advertising (almost 13 per cent in *Le Monde's* case, about £15 million).

M. Lesourne's lament, and his warning that further sharp curbs on spend-

ing on the paper would be required this year, were grimly familiar to the up-market competition in and around Paris. Both *Libération*, the left-leaning daily, and *Le Figaro*, rock of French conservatism, have been caught in much the same trap, with sales under pressure and income from most types of advertising — job offers above all — painfully reduced.

As M. Lesourne admitted to *Le Monde* readers, forecasts for advertising revenue this year are necessarily "fragile" and failure to come close enough to achieving them would mean an increase in cover price for the second year in succession. There is

no reason to suppose that the directors of *Libération* and *Le Figaro* take any more sanguine a view of the prospects, while *Le Quotidien's* prospects are amply reflected in the phrase from its own anguished editorial about "la grande misère" of the Parisian dailies.

The hard-headed officials who run the CGT, which is usually described as Communist-influenced, know as well as every newspaper management that cutting production costs by the wholesale introduction of new technology is the industry's best, probably only, way out of trouble.

Yesterday's strike was part of the skirmishing that has already begun over the level of redundancies that that would involve: 500 jobs lost over the next three years is a widely held estimate, but the print unions can be expected to fight such cuts all the way.



## White House plans poll offensive

## Golden boys forced into treasure hunt

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PATRICK Buchanan and Paul Tsongas were New Hampshire's golden boys, but as the start of the huge task ahead of them becomes apparent.

Both lack money, national organisations and strong regional bases, and face much better known opponents with lots of cash. They have to jettison the "retail" strategies that succeeded in one small state of a million people and work out how to contest 13

primaries in three weeks in politically diverse states across the country. The answer will involve shadow boxing, with periodic assaults where their opponents are most vulnerable.

The Bush-Buchanan contest is turning personal and nasty. Backed by limitless resources, the White House is determined to crush Mr Buchanan with an unbroken string of trouncing victories next month, and at all costs

before the June 2 primary in California.

Mr Bush, taking to the campaign trail, has now publicly acknowledged that "Fat" exists. In Tennessee, he dredged up a nine-year-old Buchanan column advocating voluntary social security. Aides are scouring the thousands of outspoken newspaper columns Mr Buchanan has written over the past decade for examples of extremism, and will find plenty. But despite New Hampshire's roar of anger, the one thing the White House is not contemplating is any change in economic policy.

New Hampshire's final figures, taking account of the 8 per cent of Republicans who voted for a Democrat to protest, gave Mr Bush 53 per cent and Mr Buchanan 37, cutting Mr Bush's victory margin to 16 points.

Mr Buchanan candidly admits uncertainty about how to confront "all of King George's horses and all of his men". He spent \$1.5 million (£855,000) in New Hampshire, leaving him with barely \$200,000 until more comes in. He needs, he says, to win an outright victory in a single primary to ignite a popular "firestorm". The most likely targets are Georgia on March 3, South Carolina on March 7, and Mississippi, Oklahoma or Louisiana on "Super Tuesday", March 10.

Despite Mr Tsongas's New Hampshire victory, Bill Clinton is once again the favourite for the Democratic nomination. The Arkansas governor, who has just acquired secret service protection, has an estimated \$2 million in hand and eight of the next 13 primaries are in his native South.

Mr Tsongas gained a campaign plane for the first time yesterday, but the little-known New Englander must somehow turn his victory into cash and national appeal.

Health

L&amp;T section, page 5

## Royalists revel as rebels retreat

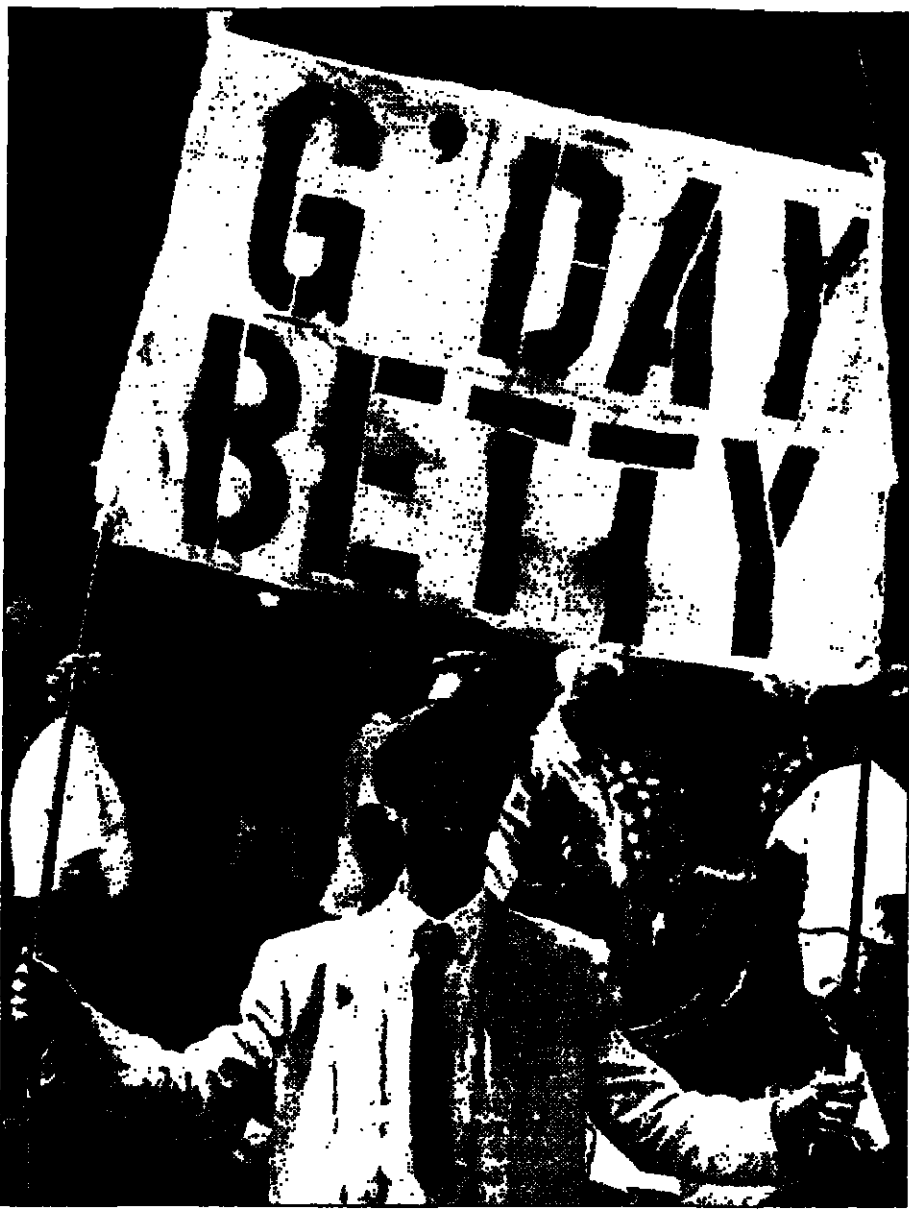
Mild dissent reflects the timidity in 'coming out' against the Queen, reports Joanna Pitman

HOSANNAS, bunting and thousands of flag-waving Sydney residents greeted the Queen yesterday as she was brought by Rolls-Royce to open the 50th parliament of New South Wales.

A sparkling array of dignitaries had been invited to witness her arrival. Marshalled into neat rows outside the parliament house, all were decked out as if for Royal Ascot. Starched linen, imaginative hats and curries were the order of the day for the women, who were busily comparing notes on the Queen's apricot chignon outfit as soon as she had walked up the red-carpeted steps.

The undercurrent of republicanism, which has been swirling since the Queen's arrival in Australia on Tuesday, surfaced yesterday in its boldest form yet. Two republican members of the Labor party boycotted the Queen's opening of parliament and held their own radical republicans' tea party in an office 12 floors above the upper house chamber.

As the Queen addressed parliament, Meredith Burmann and Ann Symonds, the two dissenters, sat alone munching cucumber sandwiches and wondering whether they were being missed. "We refuse to publicly acknowledge the supremacy of the head of state of another nation," Ms Symonds said. "Inviting the Queen to open our parliament is grossly inappropriate. Fifty-two per cent of Australians support the idea of an Australian head of state and, as an elected representative of the people, I could not bring myself to go into the room."



Royal fan: Ross Crawford, a recent English immigrant to Australia, holding up an enthusiastic greeting to the Queen yesterday outside the Sydney town hall

The original source of grievance that prompted yesterday's assault on the monarchy came in 1975, "when the Queen's appointee, the governor-general, dismissed the Gough Whitlam government", she said, "and I saw we had no control over our decision-making body".

Only the two MPs have been prepared to snub the Queen this week. The other reputedly republican MPs, many of whom are Labor members, have decided not to declare themselves this week, highlighting a problem of Australia's republican movement, the widespread timidity felt in "coming out" against the Queen.

Ever since Annita Keating, wife of Paul Keating, the

prime minister, caused a media sensation by choosing not to curtsy to the Queen on her arrival, the public has scrutinised the behaviour of dignitaries meeting the monarch for evidence of republican leanings. Mrs Keating, whose husband recently proposed that the Union Jack should be removed from the Australian flag, has been labelled a republican in the public eye. Kathryn Greiner, the wife of the New South Wales prime minister, on the other hand, has won admission to the monarchist camp on the strength of her nimble curtsy before the royal party.

But the Queen has so far seen nothing to suggest that Australia's admiration for its monarch is in any way waning. Yesterday morning she marked the 150th anniversary of the foundation of Sydney in front of several thousand well-wishers. Three verses of the national anthem echoed around the town hall square followed by a rousing rendition of *Waltzing Matilda*.

An elderly lady called Marj dabbed her brimming eyes and offered a glowing encomium for the Queen. With three friends, Lou, Pat and Cath, Marj represents one of the many groups of royalists who hunt in packs at such occasions, arriving hours ahead of royalty and setting up parasols, picnic tables and folding chair arrangements. A badge pinned to each capacious bosom announced "We Love You, Ma'am".

## Hawke gives up his seat

Sydney: Bob Hawke, the former Australian prime minister who was ousted in December by Paul Keating, yesterday resigned from parliament. His decision will lead to a critical by-election that his Labor party and the opposition will use as a referendum on each other's policies.

Mr Hawke, aged 62, said he wanted to spend more time with his family and pursue outside interests. He is negotiating a deal under which he would interview world leaders on television. He said he remained convinced that he would have been the best man to lead Labor into the next election, which must be held by early next year. (AP)

## Marcos plea

Manila: Imelda Marcos, the Philippines presidential candidate, pleaded not guilty to eight charges of depositing \$75 million (£43 million) in Swiss banks without central bank authorisation while her late husband, Ferdinand, was president. (AP)

## Tibet tirade

Peking: China has dismissed charges of human rights violations in Tibet as groundless, saying that groups such as Amnesty International were playing into the hands of Tibetan reactionaries hungry to regain control over the region. (Reuters)

## Cash refused

Tokyo: Japan will not pay compensation to individual Korean women forced to serve as prostitutes for Japanese soldiers during the war. Officials said that war reparations had been settled in an agreement with South Korea in 1965. (AP)

## Owls saved

Portland: A federal judge has blocked by injunction all logging in old-growth forests on government land in Oregon because of danger to the northern spotted owl's habitat. The case arises from a dispute between loggers and environmentalists. (AP)

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Lebanon fighting spreads while Jerusalem braces for June election choice of two hardliners

## Israeli tanks thrust into Shia territory

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN NAQOURA, LEBANON

ISRAELI armoured and infantry units yesterday launched a fierce ground assault against two Shia Muslim villages in southern Lebanon suspected of being used by Hezbollah gunners to fire Katyusha rockets at northern Israel this week.

In what was widely regarded as a dangerous escalation in five days of fighting between Israeli and Lebanese forces across the rugged border, at least 17 Israeli tanks, supported by a company of mechanised infantry, crossed out of Israel's self-declared security zone and seized a hilltop position overlooking the villages of Yatar and Kafra.

Last night Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, said that his forces would remain in their new position for as long as was required to stop the current state of rocket attacks against Israel. "You know when we say a limited period of time we don't set the limit exactly. Obviously we won't stay there forever and we won't stay there for long. I hope it will all end soon."

However, his remarks did not satisfy Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, who summoned the Israeli representative and demanded the immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from their new positions.

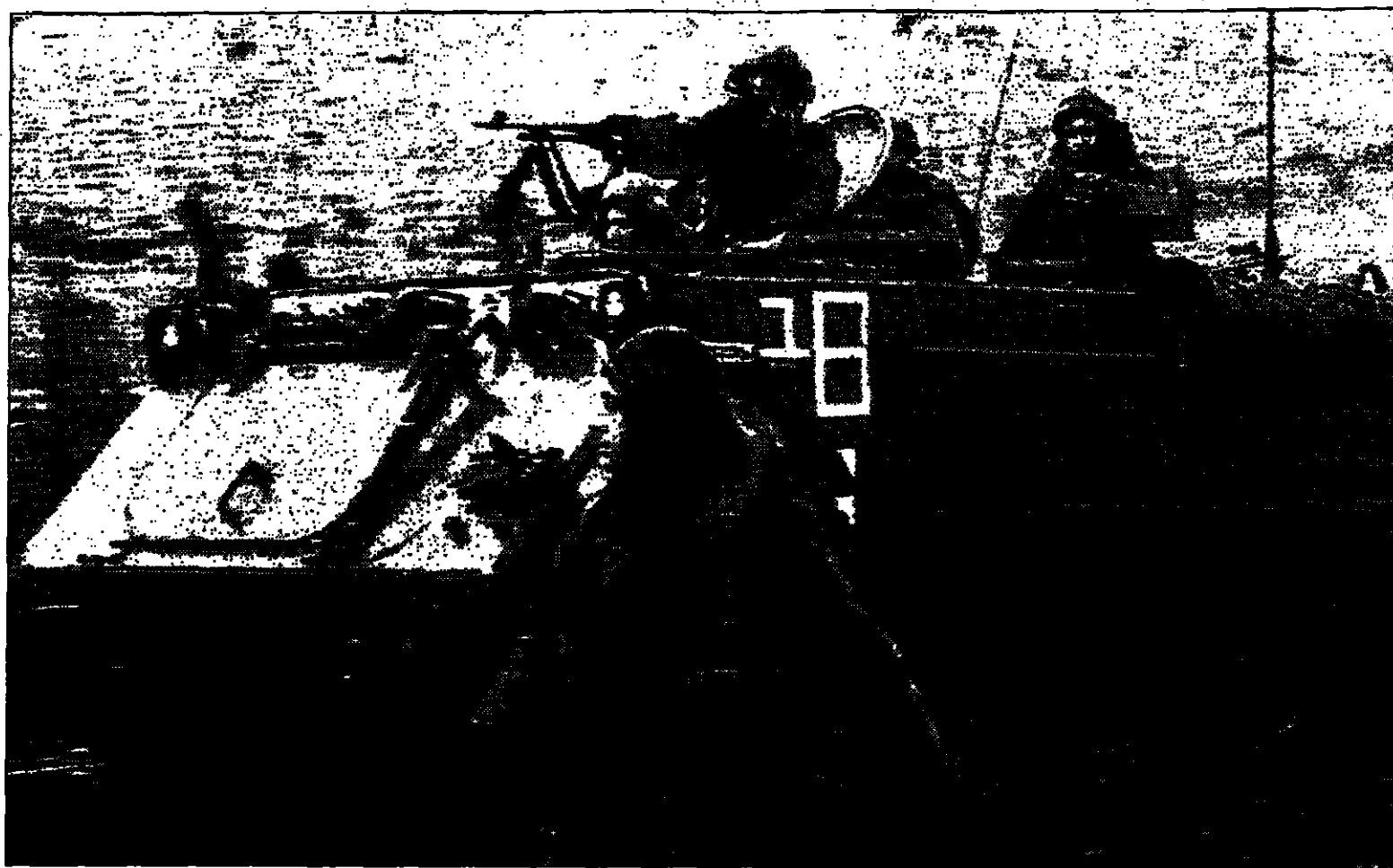
During the operation Is-

raeli gunners kept up a heavy artillery barrage on the surrounding area, while four Cobra helicopter gunships circled the grey skies overhead, providing covering fire for the ground forces.

To reach their objective the Israeli troops had to force their way through a road-block set up by multinational United Nations peacekeepers, whose vehicles were eventually removed forcibly by an Israeli army bulldozer after fist fights between the rival troops. During the confrontation two Nepalese UN troops were shot and badly injured when they were caught in the crossfire between the advancing Israelis and Hezbollah forces who converged on the area to engage them.

"We have the mandate given to us by the UN Security Council to stop all hostilities in the area," said Lieutenant-General Lars-Eric Wahlgren, the Swedish commander of the UN peacekeepers, who condemned the Israeli action and said that it would trigger further reprisals and counter-reprisals but do little to halt the current rocket attacks on Israel.

The heightened state of tension in the region began on Sunday when Sheikh Abbas Moussawi, the Hezbollah secretary-general, was killed along with his wife, son and five bodyguards by Israeli he-



Fast forward: an Israeli armoured personnel carrier passing a soldier on patrol yesterday along the northern border with Lebanon

licopter gunships which rocketed and strafed his convoy as it travelled through southern Lebanon. In response, Hezbollah gunners on Monday began a sustained bombardment of northern Israel and the security zone with scores of Katyusha rockets, the latest of which crashed into Israel at noon yesterday.

Israel at first responded with an artillery attack of its own, but yesterday decided to send ground forces into the region. UN sources in the area feared that the Israelis were attempting to establish a new permanent base on the hilltop at Tallet Hugban, which dominates the main east-west highway in the area and is

more than a mile outside the existing boundaries of the buffer zone.

What is particularly disturbing for the Lebanese authorities is the risk that other Lebanese militias and Palestinian guerrillas, who were disarmed and restricted by the Lebanese army last year, will again take up arms

alongside Hezbollah against the Israelis.

Another danger is that the confrontation will sidetrack next week's resumption of Middle East peace talks in Washington, which were supposed to concentrate on the Palestinian question but may now become absorbed in the latest twist in the conflict.

Jerusalem: Palestinian negotiators yesterday left for Jordan on their way to a new round of Middle East peace talks in Washington. The delegates had delayed their departure in protest against Israel's detention of two of their advisers.

Leading article, page 15

## Lockerbie case judge in Libya resigns

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN TRIPOLI

THE judge leading Libya's investigation of the 1988 Pan Am bombing over Lockerbie in Scotland said yesterday he was resigning from the case.

"I have been a judge for 32 years and have, thank God, a reputation like gold," Judge Ahmad al-Tajer al-Zawi said. "I think the only correct decision I should take is to resign." He said the US and Britain had failed to respond to a request for detailed evidence against Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, the Libyans accused of the bombing. "I have had no co-operation from any other country concerned with this matter," he said. "Nobody wants to respect the legal system or judicial procedures... If I do not reach a decision they like, they will say Colonel Gaddafi told me to make it."

Judge al-Zawi insisted that the men should be tried in a Libyan court if sufficient evidence was found for them to be charged. The only other international forum he would agree to would be the International Court of Justice.

Fear for Britons: Thousands of Westerners, including 5,000 Britons, could be trapped in Libya if the UN Security Council votes to sever air links with Tripoli for its alleged involvement in terrorism, diplomats said. (Reuter)



## Shamir downplays Rabin challenge

FROM BEN LYNFIELD IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, was close to victory last night over two rivals for nomination within the ruling Likud party, and was bracing for a tough contest against an increasingly formidable Labour opposition in elections in June.

As delegates of the Likud's 3,000-member central committee cast ballots at a Tel Aviv fairground, their political bosses expressed concern about Yitzhak Rabin, the popular former prime minister, who became leader of Labour by winning a primary on Wednesday, against Shimon Peres, his rival.

Ariel Sharon, the housing minister, and David Levy, the foreign minister, each manoeuvring one day to succeed Mr Shamir, mounted underdog challenges for the nomination. They referred to Mr Rabin's victory as a sign that Likud, too, should follow suit and change its leader.

A further test of strength among Mr Shamir, Mr Sharon and Mr Levy will come

next week when Likud draws up its list of candidates for the Knesset. Mr Sharon's candidacy for the top Likud post has been based largely on attacking the government for holding peace talks with Arab states and Palestinians.

Only Mr Shamir, who appointed Mr Rabin as defence minister in a 1988 Labour-Likud national unity government, sought to play down the damage from Labour's replacement of Mr Peres. "It does not matter very much," he said, disregarding speculation that Mr Sharon's reputation will enable him to lure votes away from the Likud's right wing supporters.

Mr Sharon said before casting his vote that "the only one who can face up to Rabin is me". Mr Levy appeared to go even further, using an endorsement from the new Labour leader. "Rabin has said that if David Levy is chosen to lead Likud, then Labour will have a problem. I am doing my utmost to give him this problem."

### PEOPLE

## Mother Teresa flies home to Calcutta

Mother Teresa, aged 81, flew from Rome to Calcutta yesterday, a day after she left the hospital where she recovered from heart surgery. The missionary nun, who met the Princess of Wales in the Italian capital on Wednesday, had a second heart attack two months ago and underwent surgery in California.

Queen Sophia of Spain has arrived in Amman on a private visit to Jordan. She was welcomed at the airport by King Hussein and Queen Noor.

The painter A.J. Casson, the last surviving member of the Canadian Group of Seven artists, has died of an undisclosed illness, aged 93.

The film actress Kim Basinger has accepted undisclosed libel damages and an apology over a February 1991 article in the Daily Express, headlined "Worn-out

Basinger battles to beat drugs", which said she was a cocaine addict. She claimed that the story caused her considerable distress.

Alfredo Kraus, the Spanish tenor who has complained about being left out of a star cast at the summer Olympics opening ceremony in Barcelona, says he would take part if invited: "I am human, I would like to be there with my colleagues."

Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the former UN secretary-general, has won this year's Four Freedoms Award, the Roosevelt Studies Centre of The Netherlands announced.

The grandson of John Wayne, the late film star, has been reported missing and his father has offered a \$5,000 (£2,850) reward. Anthony Wayne was reported missing on Tuesday. Police do not suspect foul play.

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Spear & Jackson Eclipse Saw Sharpener	£14.99	£13.99	Record Portable Woodwork Vice	£25.99	£23.39
Spear & Jackson Eclipse Saw Tooth Setter	£14.99	£13.99	Rabone Combination Try and Square 300mm (12")	£18.99	£17.89
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# De Klerk outflanks diehards in their hour of triumph

BY HIS stunning announcement of an almost immediate white referendum on reform, President de Klerk has once again shown what a tigerish politician he is.

In the wake of the Potchefstroom by-election, initiative and credibility were fast draining away from the government amid a growing chorus of discontent at the heart of the white vote. Now, at a single blow, Mr de Klerk has recaptured the initiative and by the sheer risk and drama of his new proposal has staged a coup d'état against Andries Treurnicht's Conservative party even in its hour of triumph.

The risks Mr de Klerk is running need little emphasis, but his proposal is canny rather than reckless. It allows right-wing opposition to grow and fester in an increasingly sour and nervous climate, he has decided to confront and, he hopes, defeat that opposition now.

The African National Congress, for its part, finds its objections to an all-white referendum simply swept aside. It will have little choice but to sit on its hands wishing Mr de Klerk well to stage mass action against such a referendum would simply push more votes to the right. No doubt the ANC will want to make its point that the days of such "whites only" votes should really be over. The ANC desperately needs Mr de Klerk to win so that the constitutional negotiations, to which it has committed itself completely, can continue.

The right is joyful at having at last gained its chance to

President de Klerk has stunned the world with his announcement of a referendum. R.W. Johnson assesses the chances of his gamble succeeding

fight an electoral holy war for white civilisation. Given the economic, political and personal insecurity felt by so many whites, with the last-ditch nature of the choice presented, we are likely to see an exceptionally bitter campaign. No doubt we shall see the politics of Swart Gevaar (the black peril) practised as never before, with the National party on the receiving end this time.

For all that, the odds must be on a de Klerk victory. A referendum is far more friendly terrain for the government than the parliamentary election the Conservative party has endlessly demanded. For in terms of the old South African constitution, parliamentary boundaries were systematically drawn in favour of the (more conservative) rural constituencies, which means that the Conservatives could win a parliamentary majority with less than half the votes — something the National party did in every election from 1948 to 1958. And the Conservative party has notoriously strong grassroots, with well dug-in local notables.

In a referendum campaign constituencies will not matter, the rural weighting effect disappears, and local grassroots matter less than the single big national issue. Moreover, the choice of ques-

tion will be Mr de Klerk's — always an advantage, especially if one can present one's side as being for a strong positive "yes" rather than a dull negative "no".

In the 1989 parliamentary election, Mr Treurnicht's Conservatives and other rightists got just over 31 per cent of the vote and the National party just under 50 per cent, with the balance going to the liberal Democratic party. By-election results since then suggest a swing of about 14 per cent to the Conservatives, putting them at about 45 per cent and, probably, the largest white party. But in a referendum Mr de Klerk will be able to count every Democratic party vote as his from the start. In theory, at least, that should see him home by a 55 to 45 margin.

That is, Potchefstroom may have shown that the Conservatives can win an average Afrikaner seat but not yet quite an average white seat. But Mr de Klerk's dramatic gesture has added an extra dimension. By announcing that he will resign if he loses, he is exactly imitating de Gaulle and, in effect, telling the country to "choose me or chaos". For even many whites who are fearful of change and frightened of the future find it impossible to believe in the Conservative party's "Rip Van Winkle" alternative of a



Victory salute: Andries Beyers of the Conservative party celebrating on Wednesday after beating the ruling party in a key by-election

separate white fatherland. In practice, as everyone knows, whoever wins will still have to deal with the ANC and an international community ready to punish heavily any attempt to backtrack towards apartheid. A victory for the "noes" would indeed present the possibility of real chaos and violence.

By dramatising that choice Mr de Klerk has personalised it: many will see the referendum as simply a vote for or against him, that is, as a barely disguised form of presidential election. This too is favourable terrain for the president. Ever since the days of the Great Trek, Afrikaners have revered strong leaders willing to chart a bold path and stake all upon it. Even many who dislike or fear much about Mr de Klerk's

"new South Africa" cannot withhold a certain admiration for the man himself. Certainly, all the polls show that Mr de Klerk as a person runs well ahead of the National party as such.

A de Klerk victory might take considerable sting out of the threat from the right, for they would no longer be able to claim majority white support. But the right's frustra-

tion if loses will be terrible to see. Until now, it has largely refrained from violence because it was biding its time so that it could prove at the polls that it, not Mr de Klerk, "spoke for the white man". But the Conservative party will probably emerge as the first party in South African history to capture a clear majority of the Afrikaner vote — and still lose. With nothing

Quit threat, page 1

## Dustbowl threat to south of Africa

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

SOUTHERN Africa is in the grip of a drought so severe that it threatens to turn the region into a vast dustbowl.

Every country south of the 12th parallel, including the usually abundant South Africa and Zimbabwe, will have to import food this year. Statistics from the Southern Africa Development Co-ordinating Conference suggest that eight million tonnes will be needed, a quantity that will choke the region's transport network unless logistical arrangements are begun immediately. David Morton, regional representative in Harare of the World Food Programme, said: "We do not have any comprehensive figures at this stage, but we know that rainfall has been catastrophic. It is an extremely serious situation. It would require an unprecedented food aid programme involving massive quantities."

South Africa and Zimbabwe, usually exporters to much of the rest of Africa, are the worst affected, with parts of each country experiencing the lowest rainfall in memory, accompanied by record high temperatures that have created widespread crop failure. In South Africa, a welfare organisation predicted last week that two million people could be starving by May unless drought relief is speeded.

In southern Zimbabwe, 35,000 children are said to be severely malnourished. South African maize imports are expected to be between two and three million tonnes. Delegates to a meeting in Paris this week to raise fi-

nance for Zimbabwe's economic reform programme were told in a confidential document that the country may have to import a million tonnes after maize harvest predictions of 200,000 tonnes, a fifth of normal.

Countries such as Malawi, Zambia and Botswana that received sufficient rain in December and January, though less than usual, for promising maize and sorghum crops, have been struck by a sudden drying out of the atmosphere that is expected to devastate yields. Last week, Guy Scott, Zambia's agriculture minister, announced that the maize harvest estimate had been cut by a quarter. Experts predict that the fierce sunshine will drive yields lower.

In Malawi, President Banda, touring farming areas, has been urging his fellow citizens to pray. No rain in the next two weeks would mean that the import requirement to feed the nearly one million Mozambican refugees jammed into the south of the tiny country would soar to 165,000 tonnes.

A United Nations official in Botswana said: "The problem is that the usual sources of imports are also very precarious. ... Everybody is going to be importing and using the same ports and the same railways. Organisation is going to have to be very good."

## Koreans endorse nuclear-free pact

BY DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

KIM Il Sung, the North Korean president, has assured the South Korean prime minister that his country is not building a nuclear bomb. But after two days of discussions in Pyongyang the nuclear threat continues to overshadow talk of reunification. The delegation from the south remains uncertain whether the "Great Leader" is telling the truth, although both sides ratified a new agreement to make the Korean peninsula nuclear-free.

"As we have repeatedly stated, we do not have any nuclear weapons," President Kim is reported to have told the South Korean prime minister, Chung Won Shik. "Moreover, we do not produce and do not need to produce nuclear weapons. We do not intend at all to have a nuclear confrontation with the powerful countries surrounding us."

"Furthermore, it is unimaginable for us to develop

nuclear weapons which could slaughter our fellow countrymen. Nobody can deny this," he said.

Reports from the North Korean capital said the president had called for arms reductions and reiterated his demand that all 39,000 American troops should be withdrawn from the south. President Kim expressed scepticism over claims that all American nuclear weapons had already been removed.

He hailed the inter-Korea documents as "the first precious step toward the independent and peaceful reunification of the country" but gave no indication on when his state would resolve the nuclear disputes.

Fresh impetus for proper inspection of North Korean nuclear facilities comes from the Pentagon's recently leaked study of potential war in which the Defence Intelligence Agency anticipated that North Korea would soon possess five to 10 such weapons.

Despite the fact that Pyongyang has signed an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency to admit inspectors, North Korea has now insisted that the nuclear inspection agreements must be ratified by the Supreme People's Congress which will not meet before early April.

Inspections would not take place until six months after ratification at the earliest, raising the suspicion that Pyongyang is playing for time while pressing on with its nuclear programme.



Kim denies having nuclear weapons

## Congress heads for big win in Punjab

Delhi: The Congress (I) party was heading for a majority in the 117-seat state assembly in Punjab last night, after the lowest voter turnout (Christopher Thomas writes).

The hardline Hindu organisation, the Bharatiya Janata Party, was also putting up a spirited showing as results came in from Wednesday's poll. The new administration will take office later this month, ending five years of direct rule from Delhi. It is not expected to last long.

The election, boycotted by all but one faction of the traditional Sikh party, the Akali Dal, has been condemned as a farce. Traditional Sikh strongholds were captured by Congress after entire districts reported that not a single Sikh had voted.

## Cambodia cost

New York: The United Nations has proposed sending more than 20,000 military, police and civilian personnel to Cambodia at a cost of \$1.9 billion (£1 billion) to take over the war-torn country in the run-up to elections in April or May 1993.

## Arrests claim

Algiers: More than 14,000 have been arrested in Algeria, according to the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front, which claimed to be quoting sources close to security forces. The government has said 5,000 have been held in the state of emergency.

## Kurd mission

Ankara: Mustafa Barzani, head of the Iraqi Kurdistan Democrat party, arrived here on visit marks an important resumption of relations suspended last October. He will have talks with Suleyman Demirel, the Turkish prime minister, on logistic support.

## Rallies banned

Abidjan: Ivory Coast's government has imposed an indefinite ban on demonstrations after the arrest of Laurent Gbagbo, leader of the main opposition party, led to violent protests in the town of Ouragahien, 125 miles northwest of the capital. (AFP)

## Zaire mourns

Kinshasa: The Archbishop of Kinshasa has ordered special services as a mark of "regret and protest" against the death of 17 pro-democracy demonstrators when the Zairean army fired on Christians marching through the capital last Sunday. (Reuters)

## Ceasefire plan

Rome: The Mozambique government and its rebel foes will tackle within days the issue of a ceasefire in the country's 16-year-old civil war, which has claimed over a million lives since 1975, mediators at peace talks here said. (Reuters)

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## Aids ads change face of Hanoi

The spartan charm of the city where Ho Chi Minh once ruled is fading fast with rapid development. James Pringle reports from Hanoi

Communist North Vietnam was never a puritanical state, even when it was politically orthodox. Nevertheless, street posters in Hanoi illustrating the campaign against the spread of Aids in Vietnam are surprising in their frankness. They depict a couple making love in an unusual position, and carry the words: "Do not have sexual relations with many partners."

Warnings are also given against injecting drugs. And on television Vietnamese are being urged to use condoms and "stay faithful". The government says there are only a few HIV-positive cases, but an official says this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Changes are coming with bewildering rapidity to Vietnam and to this once austere but now increasingly lively city on the Red River. While there is no real political opening to match the economic reforms that have brought increased prosperity and reduced the outward flow of boat people, the mood has altered.

Over loudspeakers in central Hanoi that used to broadcast anti-American tirades, one can now hear

songs by Paul Simon and Cyndi Lauper. Bookshops are selling Vietnamese translations of Alexandra Ripley's *Scarlett*, sequel to *Gone with the Wind*, and the latest novel by Sidney Sheldon.

The Tortoise Pagoda in Hoan Kiem Lake of the Restored Sword, at the heart of the capital, has been restored, and the red star that topped it removed. As this pagoda with its star had been used as an emblem for Hanoi, the change is seen as significant.

Signs of communist orthodoxy are hard to find now, one diplomat says. But a statue of Lenin still stands forlornly in a central park, visited only by communist delegations from other Vietnamese provinces.

The picture of the late President Ho Chi-minh above the central bank is also fading, though this does not mean that "Uncle Ho" is too. Whatever ideological changes there are

will not alter his place at the heart of Vietnamese society, diplomats say, as he is regarded as a strongly nationalist figure.

Some diplomats who have admired Hanoi's spartan, pristine charm, a harmonious mixture of Asian and European architectural styles, are distressed at the rapid, indiscriminate pace of development. "Under the reforms, people are now allowed to build on their own, which is fine," noted one. "Unfortunately, they are doing it with scant regard for Hanoi's heritage."

Founded in 1010, the old city was, until recently, one of the finest surviving capitals in Asia. In Hong Kong, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, shopping malls have replaced old Chinese shop houses, and condominiums have gone up in place of stately mansions. There are intimations of this here.

Foreign investment and increased wealth are threatening to do what American bombs could not:

destroy the charm of a refined city of tree-lined boulevards and pleasant old French colonial villas. Bicycles have made way for motor bikes. Tram cars have gone off to a scrap metal graveyard.

Land prices soar as foreign businessmen pay top prices for office and residential accommodation. City officials say people are demanding more space, now that they have more money. In the ensuing chaotic construction boom, old stucco buildings that could be restored are being torn down to make way for unsightly edifices in the dreary old Soviet mould.

One landmark being retained is the old Metropole Hotel, for years the rat-infested Unilever Hotel of the Communist regime. The Metropole has been restored to its turn-of-the-century style by a French company, and will re-open soon as the Pullman Metropole Hotel. Hanoi's first five-star hotel is complete with business centre and swimming pool. Foreign diplomats hope the hotel will demonstrate both to city planners and to citizens that it is possible to modernise while saving what is good.



## Bow and scrape

Lynne Truss wonders why we still curtsy

Perhaps the main interest in the Aussie PM's wife bows to Queen? incident, which has so far made Her Majesty's trip to the antipodes, is that it underlines the unfairness of life. There is nothing reasonable or courteous in a woman bobbing her head to the monarch instead of flexing her knees in a curtsy. Debutant's *Etiquette and Modern Manners* states that either gesture is admissible (implying that it is the thought that counts). No, the real cause for regret is that Mrs Keating, privileged to meet the Queen, did not seize her one chance in life to practise a social skill that most of us learn in knobby-kneed infancy and have never had a proper opportunity to use. Bowing and scraping in front of Elizabeth R seen on the telly may have fun for all the family, but it was a poor shadow of the real thing.

Of course, there is a larger ideological issue about whether to bend the knee to the monarch. But given that generally one doesn't meet the Queen without wanting to (she doesn't come round to your house and surprise you in the bath), this is surely irrelevant.

Perhaps Mrs Keating was simply overwhelmed by the occasion and worried that the rather tricky weight-shifting involved in a curtsy might cause her to fall over. Perhaps she was wearing leg splints; I don't know for sure. I suppose the point is that the curtsy implies more abject obedience than the male equivalent neck-jerk nod of the head. But since both acts are minimal these days, I wonder if it really matters. The curtsy does at least have the advantage that one is unlikely to head-butt the monarch by mistake.

Historians of etiquette remind us that the curtsy was formerly performed by men, and that somehow (as is the way with evolution) they later lost the use of their legs. Think of Errol Flynn in tight breeches sweeping the parquet with his plumed hat, and you will wonder how we ever let the custom drop.

Of course, accidents could happen even to the most practised and courteous of hand-kissers. John Aubrey's *Brief Lives* gives us the salutary tale of Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford, who made such a deep curtsy to Queen Elizabeth I that he unfortunately broke wind. To cover his embarrassment (so the story goes), he set sail for Europe and didn't return to court for seven years. On returning to the royal presence, however, he was greeted with the words, "My lord, I have forgot the fart." No wonder he afterwards consoled himself by writing Shakespeare's plays.

In the documentary *Elizabeth R*, there was a pleasant scene filmed at Buckingham Palace, in which a select group of the Queen's subjects were trained in the exact protocol of kneeling on a velvet stool. I am told that the palace is also happy to coach women in the rather okay-cocky business of the curtsy — with its left leg in and its right leg out — because there are women who honestly don't know how.

They can never have known the pleasure, then, of bobbing to the Lord Mayor at prizegivings, or doing deep wobbly curseys at the end of ballet lessons. But is it something that really needs to be taught? Surely the impulse to bob is atavistic and involuntary, something to do with fight or flight in the face of superior strength. I am sure I have seen people curtsy on meeting Mrs Thatcher, for example. And some of them were men.

"Curtsy while you're thinking what to say. It saves time," is what the Red Queen advised Alice (in *Through the Looking Glass*). I doubt that our own monarch passed this advice on to Mrs Keating, but it would have been a lark if she had.

The stigma of bankruptcy has gone as debtors escape their creditors, writes Charles Bremner in New York

## Where it's chic to be broke

A wonderful thing has just happened to those two icons of American consumerism, Macy's and TWA. Both of them have gone broke. We knew it was great news because both TransWorld and the world's biggest department store took out heavy advertising to proclaim their vision of a rosy future under "reorganisation". The new up-beat word for "filing for Chapter 11", which was the last euphemism for bankruptcy.

Not so long ago, a whiff of bankruptcy would have been enough to send passengers fleeing for other airlines and creditors besieging the shop along with the customers eager for a crack at the liquidation. But not any more. Thanks to generous laws and the demise of the puritan ethic, bankruptcy, both personal and corporate, has lost much of its stigma and is becoming almost a status symbol.

Britain's Society of Insolvency Practitioners recently complained about the rush to the receiver, but the picture on the east of the Atlantic is positively Dickensian compared to that in America. British bankrupts do not yet jump into the expensive cars they were allowed to keep under kindly laws to nurture their self-esteem at

recovery sessions for the victims of addiction to debt.

The days when indigent debtors would be drummed out of the country club ended in the junk bond era, a time when credit companies showered the public with unsolicited cards. Bankruptcy, which probably began when John Conolly, a former Texas governor, drew no opprobrium and much sympathy when he went "belly up", as they used to say five years ago. By the turn of the decade, half the airlines in America, including big names such as Pan Am and Continental, seemed to be "seeking protection from creditors". That image of evil money-grubbers pounding at the door of the hungry is the favourite device for referring to the laws which buy time to "restructure" a company or one's finances.

Now with deep recession, hundreds of thousands of companies and individuals large and small are treating bankruptcy virtually as a clever manoeuvre or rigorous health cure. Take, for

example, one of New York's most prominent inhabitants of Chapter 11, or deadbeats as they were known locally in the old days of negative-thinking. Not Donald Trump (only parts of his empire have gone under), but Peter Kalikow, another property tycoon and the owner of *The New York Post*. Although he is "seeking relief" from his creditors, Mr Kalikow has just announced his plan to bid some \$50 million for *The Daily News*, the newspaper bought last year by the posthumously bankrupt Robert Maxwell.

What might once have sounded like a joke is being taken as a nifty ploy which may win the support of Mr Kalikow's creditors on the principle that the *Post*, which is not bankrupt but close to it, will stand a better chance of survival by amalgamating with the bankrupt *News*.

This sort of move is prompting businessmen to start seeing solvency as a positive handicap. How can one lose, they wonder, when creditors can legally be held

off even while they continue happily feeding one with more credit, as suppliers are doing to many of the 13,000 retail firms now in bankruptcy?

In the personal field, bankruptcy jumped nearly 50 per cent last year in the north-east United States, and 30 per cent nationally. Hugh Leonard, a New Jersey lawyer whose firm is handling the local "filing frenzy", says too many people use personal insolvency to wash themselves of debt. "It's like buying a new set of clothes," he says. Courts are running special weekend sessions, and in suburbs across the country, the *nouveau pauvre* can be found swapping bankruptcy lawyers' names over their backyard barbecues. This is hardly necessary, since legal outfits are advertising their bankruptcy services everywhere. Those who prefer to avoid the stiff legal fees, payable up front of course, can buy do-it-yourself bankruptcy kits.

All kinds of wheezes are available for saving a chunk of one's

assets, the latest being the "cramdown", a manoeuvre for shaving thousands of dollars off a mortgage when the house's value drops below the outstanding debt to the bank. There are two kinds of personal bankruptcy, Chapter 7, or straight bankruptcy, will discharge a person of all unsecured debt such as credit cards and medical bills (though not unpaid taxes). More popular with the employed middle classes is Chapter 13, which allows debts to be reorganised through a trustee, a process which eventually cancels most of them.

As in the property business, location is everything. Some states, such as California and Florida, forgive the debts while allowing people to keep minimum trappings such as their houses, swimming pools and recreational vehicles. In Texas, one can keep a home and up to 200 acres, as well as tens of thousands of dollars in vehicles and other assets. In poor New Hampshire, however, the wolf will take all but a paltry list that

includes a few dollars, a militia uniform and a burial plot. Not surprisingly, imminent bankrupts are fleeing the state for the sun-belt.

Of course the process is far from painless, and a sense of failure does still afflict many honest Americans; but the moral burden has shifted. Rather than feeling shame, many of the "cash poor" are angrily blaming the banks and credit companies which so irresponsibly forced them to hock themselves in the 1980s. Beyond that, members of bankrupt survivors' groups can be found reproaching a society which provides no safety-nets and requires citizens to fork out from their own pockets for such costly basics as medical care and higher education.

Banks and loan companies are now arguing that the bankruptcy frenzy is far more than a symptom of hard times, and they have called on President Bush and the Justice Department to raise barriers to prevent people ducking their debts with near impunity. But the credit business is hardly blameless. According to new figures, 16 per cent of new bankrupts are given installment loans or new credit cards within a year and 53 per cent within five.

## Slaying Labour's old dragons

By taming the unions, the Tories have made voters feel safer with the opposition, says Peter Riddell

Norman Tebbit, as so often, summed up the Tories' dilemma. The danger for the party, he said on the BBC's *On the Record*, is that there is "a fair play instinct in the British voter who will say, if there is not a lot between them, perhaps we should try the other lot. The Tories have done a lot of good, they've sorted out the unions, the nationalised industries, and — alongside the Americans — the threat of the Soviet Union. Perhaps there's a case then, for having a Labour government."

In short, might the Tories lose the election because of their successes, as much as because of their failures? By slaying the dragons of the late 1970s and early 1980s, have they made it safe for voters to elect a Labour government?

The polls suggest this is a real threat to the Tories. The proportion of voters believing there are really important differences between the parties has fallen from three-quarters to just over a half, while the number regarding the parties as much the same has risen from a quarter to just under a half. This shift results partly from the convergence of the parties' appeals to the centre, but it also reflects the disappearance of the old bogey.

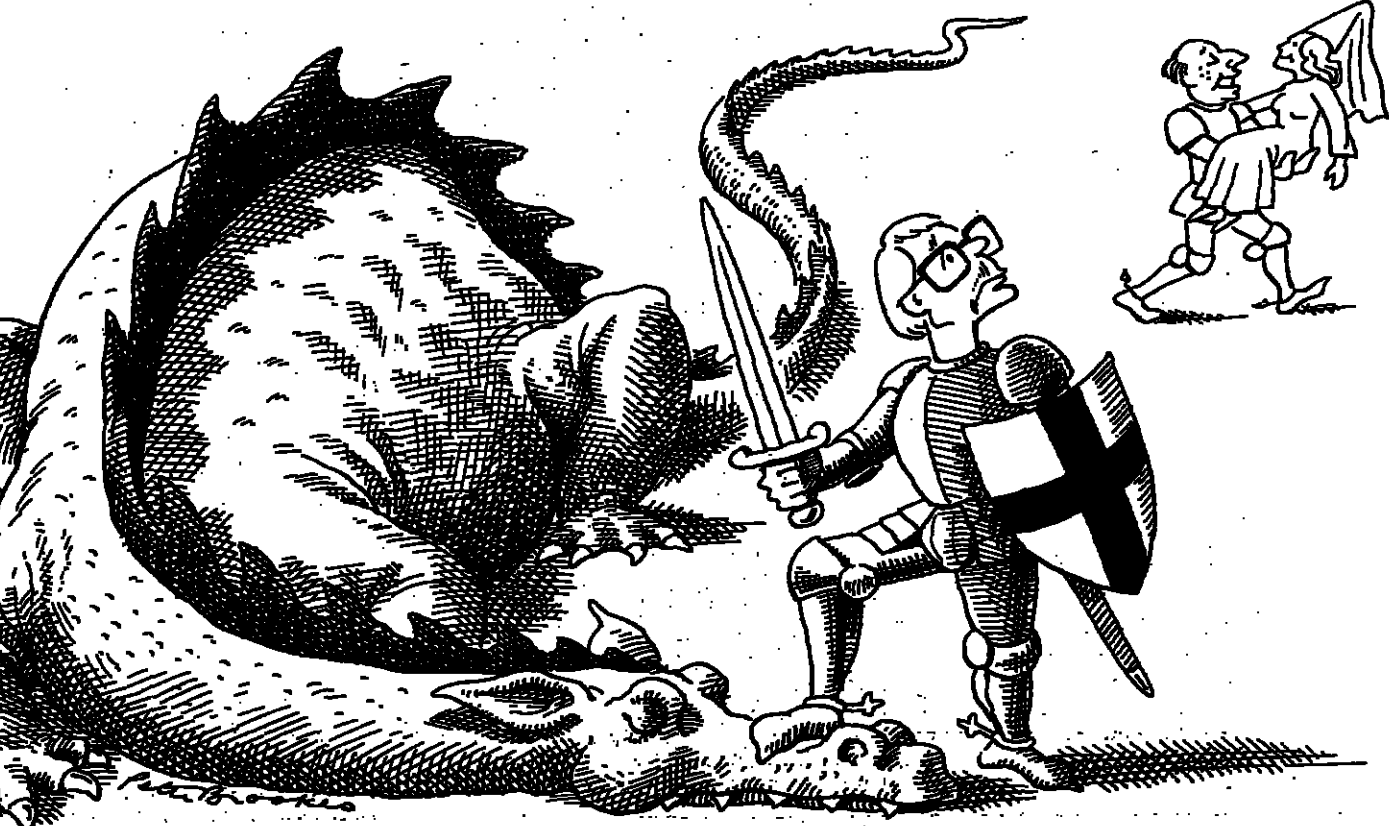
This week, for instance, the Tories sought to cause a scare over Labour's relations with the unions. Two press conferences and a Commons debate were mounted to dramatise the message that Labour is still in the grip of the unions. But listening to the debate, and looking at the coverage, I am not sure "that dog will hunt", as American politicians say.

The Tories have certainly raised pertinent questions about whether Labour's proposals to

change the industrial relations laws of the 1980s would restore the unions' earlier privileges, and about the impact of a national minimum wage. The prospect of the public sector unions unchained is not one to stir the heart. There are strong arguments against Labour, but they are hard to press when the unions are on their best behaviour. Following the sharp fall in the number of strikes, and because of the Tories' success in curbing their power, the public is no longer afraid of the unions. Union leaders used to be daily fixtures on the television news, but now they rarely appear. They are no longer popular ogres: no one is scared of Norman Willis.

Labour's Tony Blair is proving an elusive target for Michael Howard. The two barristers have not landed any really punishing blows on each other yet. Mr Blair can argue that Labour would not return to the trade union laws of the 1970s, that there would be no mass pickets and that there will be ballots before strikes and for union elections. Labour would not try to revive the corpse of Scabism. Whatever doubts one might have about the fine print, Mr Blair can present any changes to the Tory laws as conferring rights upon the low paid and part-time workers, the right to join a union, and to maternity leave, all of which are common in the rest of Europe.

All of Mr Howard's skills as an advocate may not stir up public fears. One recent poll showed that fear of Labour giving power to the unions remains one of the biggest obstacles to voting for the party, but other polls show that the



unions barely register as among the most important issues facing Britain.

Similarly, the Tories' economic policies have made Labour's task easier. The key is public borrowing. The public sector moved into large surplus in the late 1980s, sharply reducing the burden of public debt. This has allowed the government to raise borrowing substantially this year to reflect the recession, while indulging in a pre-election boost to spending. This is very different to the recession of the early 1980s, when borrowing was held down. Borrowing in the coming year is likely to be near the limit of 3 per cent of national income, or around £20 billion, under the economic and monetary union guidelines. So John Major's confirmation yesterday that borrowing at current levels, the difference could be very large

and might allow Labour to implement some of its spending plans. Borrowing to finance a tax cut in the budget would give Labour money that it could use for health and education.

If, by slaying the old dragons and making public borrowing look prudent, the Tories have reduced the apparent risk of voting Labour, they must find another way of highlighting party differences. Since it is Thatcher's children — first time homebuyers and skilled workers in the private sector — who have been hardest hit by the recession, the Conservatives have somehow to warn that they would be even worse off under Labour. The Tories have found a rich and far from exhausted mine with their campaign against Labour's tax plans, which has clearly struck home among these people. As today's

Times story shows, Labour is finding it hard to limit tax increases merely to the obviously better off.

Above all, as Mr Tebbit has suggested, the Tories have to stress the campaign question "Who do you trust with the levers of power?" They have to put the element of risk back into voters' minds. Mr Major provides the reassurance of a safe pair of hands, but seldom much excitement. That gap was filled by Michael Heseltine's rumbustious, outrageous, over-the-top performance in Wednesday's economic debate, with his harangue "We are the governing party and we will stay that way." I have not seen Tory MPs smile and cheer so much for a long time. A few members in marginal seats may have glimpsed a possible salvation.



...and moreover  
**ALAN COREN**

Just how dangerous a little learning is, I have just learned. Earlier today, I received a letter from Elisabeth Bolshaz, editorial director of Hodder & Stoughton, saying that their "Teach Yourself" series, launched 54 years ago, is to be relaunched this April, and that the accompanying fanfare would be incomplete without the plaudits of people willing to attribute their present success to their past study of this inestimable self-help library. If I was one such, particularly if I still had the volume on my shelf, would I complete and return to her the following sentence: "I consider my greatest achievement to be..."

This letter has deeply unsettled me. Not because I am offended at Elisabeth's inference that my life's work gives off an autodidactic niff suggesting I picked up the trick of it at Foyle's for half a crown, but because it so happens that I do have a Teach Yourself book, though, I did not remember this, however, until she reminded me, and when her letter jogged me into seeking it out was when my deep unsettlement began. It is unlikely that it will ever end.

The seeking-out took place in the attic, because the volume was not on my shelf, it was in a small box containing the books my father left behind when, in 1988, he embarked upon that journey on which none of us needs to take along something to read. The box was small because my father wasn't a reader: his library consisted

mainly of old AA books and such tosh as Reader's Digest felt would improve when shrunk to a tenth of its size and given away to those who cared as little about good books as about good magazines. Thus, when my old man died, it wasn't need but sentiment that required me to hang on to his books, and as attics are for sentiment not need, that is why they are there. And why, a couple of hours ago, I was, because Elisabeth had made me recall not only the familiar blue-and-yellow cover of another book my father owned, but also that I had never even glanced at it to see what it was he had wanted to teach himself. I opened the box.

He had wanted to teach himself Danish.

I opened the book. A date was pencilled on an endpaper. He had wanted to teach himself Danish in 1958. I closed the book for a bit. In 1958, my old man had wanted to teach himself Danish. He was 46. I was living away from home, so I did not know he wanted to teach himself Danish. I knew it now, but I did not know why he wanted to. Nor did I know whether my mother knew that he wanted to teach himself Danish, or if she did, whether she knew why, either. Since she, too, is now dead, everything about my father's teaching himself Danish is unknowable.

But is it unguessable? I opened the book again. Several words and phrases were underlined in red. They did not represent a continuum: my

father had dipped and selected. He had, for example, ignored Exercise 9, *Den Grønne Aetling*, altogether. He did not want to know about ugly ducklings. But he wanted to know about Mols. Mols is where Mols live. Exercise 26 recalls how the Molsbros chose the point being, as far as I could work it out, that the Molsbros are dimwits. Why would my old man want to know that? And why would he have underlined, elsewhere, such words as *smuk* and *sykkelig* and *cykel* and *der gøres*, i.e. why was he storing the ability to say "beautiful" and "unhappy" and "bicycle", and that he was sorry? How could this bizarre lexical jigsaw best be assembled? Had my old man, unbeknown to his family, sneaked off to Denmark, fallen in love with a dim but beautiful Molsbros, made her unhappy, felt the need to apologise? Or was he knocking a male Molsbros off his beautiful bike while the poor dope was out chasing storks? Or maybe my old man never went to Denmark at all, maybe he had only a mid-life dream of going, of cycling to Mols, finding a beautiful airhead, telling her he was unhappy, apologising for his ignorance of ducklings...

I shall never know. I have been able to teach myself nothing of my father. I do, though, now know the Danish for "King". It is "kong". This means that when *King Kong* is shown there, it is billed as *Kong Kong*. Not perhaps my greatest achievement. Elisabeth, but something,

## Off with her head

TWO CENTURIES after the French guillotined Marie Antoinette, the *entente cordiale* with Britain has become strained in a dispute over another royal head. Plans for a unique joint Anglo-French postage stamp to mark the opening of the Channel tunnel have foundered on French objections to plans for the stamp to bear the head of Elizabeth II alongside the words "Republique Française".

French postal officials insist that they did not celebrate the bicentenary of *la révolution* in order to compromise their republican ideals so shortly afterwards. The British post office is equally determined that no joint stamp can be issued without the monarch's head. In a classic compromise, the two countries will now produce different versions of the stamp. One will be the work of a British



designer, the other by a Frenchman, both chosen in "limited competitions" to find designs which will be "different but related". The post office refuses to comment on the designs, the row



or the protracted negotiations with Paris, but Professor Herbert Spencer, a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts who was closely involved as a member of the post office's stamp advisory committee, says: "The talks went on for a long time. It wasn't a massive argument about the Queen, but such problems are inevitable. International collaborations always prove difficult."

It makes one wonder how they reached agreement to build the tunnel in the first place — but then that took 200 years.

● Sir Norman Fowler, who is to be the prime minister's minder on John's Jet, the plane which will fly Major around during the election campaign, has let the cat out of the bag. At least so says Charles Kennedy, the president of the Liberal Democrats. Kennedy insists that Fowler told him the election date was fixed for April 9 last Friday when the two men chatted after recording a television show. Fowler insists he said no such thing. The sooner the prime minister announces the date the sooner this silliness can stop. Please.

● Clare Short is the latest to suffer from dirty tricks in the run-up to the election. The Labour MP, whom the tabloids love to hate for her campaign against page-three girls, has a deep and shocking secret. Her sister Eileen is a member of Militant. And how do we know this? Not from the capitalist press at all, but from the left-wing magazine, Labour Briefing. The magazine's perverse complaint, by the way, is that Clare is not more like her sister. The revelation comes in a profile of the Labour MP endearingly titled "Class Traitor of the Month".

● Michael Heseltine's drive to give a lead in matters green has shattered to a halt in, of all places, the House of Commons. Every scrap of recycled Commons headed paper has been used, and no new supplies can be obtained for at least three weeks. MPs from all parties, anxious to display their environment-friendly credentials by writing to constituents on recycled paper, are furious.

● An appalling example for us to set, says Robert Hayward, Tory MP for Kingswood. "I am writing to the House authorities about it." Under the circumstances, that seems very unsound.

Staff are hawking round *The Official Robert Maxwell Joke Book*, a compendium of irreverent lines dreamt up to relieve the grim uncertainty since the company went into receivership in January. Little, Brown, which this week took over the company, should find the offer enticing, since the authors have agreed to waive all royalties and donate them to the pension fund.

Among those who have contributed is Carol Smith, formerly Maxwell's own literary agent. Her story is a true one, but illustrates the volume's black humour. "Some years ago I renegotiated a deal with Maxwell's company to increase a £3,000 advance to £150,000," she says. "Minutes later I was summoned to see the chairman, who demanded to know how I had managed to extract so much money out of him. I told him it was sheer blackmail. He asked me to be his agent. He said that I was the only one he could trust."

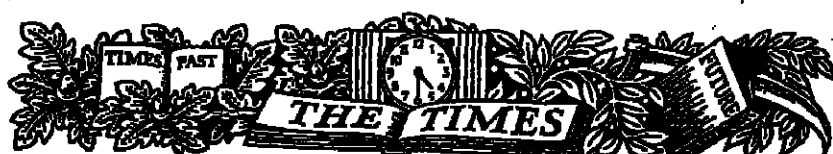
● The ANC gave its blessing to the tour before casting began, and Malcolm's production will now beat Cameron Mackintosh, whose *Les Misérables* had been expected to be the first West End show to land in Johannesburg. His plans are now being stalled by South Africa's Equity, which wants to impose a quota of blacks in the casting.

● Oliver Tambo for a starring role — and turned her down. *The Rocky Horror Show* will arrive in Cape Town in April with a cast that is overwhelmingly white. The director, Christopher Malcolm, says: "Sadly we so far have only two blacks out of a cast of 15. This reflects the low number of blacks who auditioned."

Among those who did audition, however, was Tselane Tambo, the ANC chairman's 29-year-old daughter, who studied at drama school in London. "I was tempted to cast Tselane, but didn't because I had to do what was artistically right rather than what was politically opportunist," says Malcolm. "She was enthusiastic and intelligent, but she was auditioning for the role of Columbia who is a little scatty-brained punk. She was too pretty for the part."

THE first British stage show to transfer to South Africa since the dismantling of apartheid began has auditioned the daughter of





## UNHEALING THE NHS

The news that Labour means to abandon the recent reform of the National Health Service should come to power is immensely depressing. Reform was clearly needed. The Tory reforms are in the right direction. They are gaining ever wider acceptance within the NHS. Labour was not expected to like all of them, could reasonably be allowed some tinkering, and could even be excused for exaggerating for electoral purposes, the extent to which it would unpick unpopular Tory changes. But Robin Cook, Labour's health spokesman, yesterday said he would simply dismantle the reforms that have been bashed through by successive Conservative health secretaries.

In the beginning was NHS Mark I, based on the deal struck between the doctors and Aneurin Bevan. This divided up control of the health service between the medical professionals, the health service unions and the politicians. There was scant mention of local democracy, economic efficiency or patients' rights.

The reform William Waldegrave has recently been presiding over is NHS Mark II. This was intended to induce greater efficiency by means of an internal market, as well as push resource rationing more in the direction of general practitioners. By concentrating more attention on GPs as money spenders and hospitals as subcontractors, the reforms hoped to make the NHS more concerned with giving value for money and more responsive to its ultimate customers, the sick. "Control" of the NHS was thus no more democratic, but it was clearly more oriented towards its true market and more likely to be efficient. In this it was an advance.

Mr Cook would have done better to show how he could take Mark II forward to even greater radicalism. There are good things in what he said yesterday. He wants some role for local democracy in the constitution of hospitals and the general practitioner service, notably in appointment to regional and

area health authorities. This has always been a Tory blindspot. Mr Cook goes further than the present government (in its patient's charter) in putting flesh on the bones of consumer rights. He is also sufficiently aware of the drawbacks of Mark I to want "performance agreements" and "service agreements" between different health agencies. These are not so unlike the contracts which are the linking mechanisms in the Tories' internal market, except that with no money attached they will lack any bite.

For the key to Mr Cook's NHS Mark III is the abandonment of the internal market, in order to restore the central planning of hospital resources and remove budget-holding from GPs. He is stripping the NHS of competitive efficiency, both between hospitals and within the budgets of GPs. Add to this his hapless pledges to health authorities and health unions to grant them any "underfunding" they can dream up, and the old evils of NHS Mark I are assured. The defining institution of Mark I was the queue. Low productivity and waste were as much a part of it as carbolic and cream paint. There is abundant evidence that managers and doctors are making more decisions for themselves, and liking it. Queues are shortening. Value for money is improving. The last thing the NHS wants is another upheaval to take it back to the old days.

Mr Cook's plan appears to be wholly political in motivation: Labour's image on health is so potent that he dare give no quarter to the Tory reforms. Whenever taxed on his proposals he murmurs about better performance and pledges a cash gusher. On that one thing is certain: the Treasury has spent lavishly to ease down the pill of Mr Waldegrave's new health service. If told that Mr Cook will sacrifice the benefits of that pill and yet spend ever more lavishly in the process, it will fight him all the way. Ultimately it will win and patients will suffer.

## ISRAEL'S PEACE HAWK

Yitzhak Rabin's victory over Shimon Peres in the contest for leadership of the Israeli Labour party substantially improves the chances of peace in the Middle East. At last Labour can offer a credible alternative to the Likud government of Yitzhak Shamir. Mr Rabin, a shrewd former prime minister, is the only man likely to garner enough support from the right to undermine Mr Shamir's current supremacy in Israeli politics. Only under his leadership could Labour negotiate a peace settlement and sell it to an increasingly polarised electorate.

The chances of peace have risen not because Mr Rabin is a dove, but because he is a hawk. A former chief of staff during the 1967 war, he straddles the deep divide in Israeli politics between those who suspect all concessions to Arabs and those who yearn for an end to permanent hostility with their neighbours. Israeli voters often internalise this divide: they can be short-term hawks but long-term doves. Mr Peres, who has an honourable record in going the extra mile for peace, is seen as a dove in both the short and the long term. In an Israel where religious nationalists and the far right have been gaining ground, he had become unelectable.

Mr Rabin cannot so easily be labelled. He was a military hero but a pedestrian successor to Golda Meir as prime minister. As ambassador to the United States he was zealous in promoting what he saw as Israel's interests, antagonising potential friends with clumsy attempts to influence policy. On becoming defence minister in 1984 he was inflexible in administering the occupied territories, reviving punishments such as the destruction of homes of suspected offenders, detention without trial for up to a year and expulsion. He confronted the *intifada* with an iron fist. "We will suppress this violence," he said. "Any means at the army's disposal in compliance with army order is fit if it serves the purpose." His policy of "might, power

and beatings" brought home the brutality of occupation to the Palestinians and the outside world. At home it reflected intransigence in the face of violence and won confidence on the right.

Mr Rabin's own long-term views on Israel's boundaries are unclear. As defence minister in the grand coalition, he drew up plans for self-rule for the Palestinians. He does not have the fundamentalist attachment to Greater Israel that makes Mr Shamir and his right-wing allies unable to contemplate relinquishing any occupied land. But he is unlikely to make unilateral gestures. He is a hard man.

The hope now for Labour is that the long interminable quarrel with Mr Peres can be ended. Mr Peres suffered from a reputation for intrigue and untrustworthiness. Mr Rabin, although forced to resign his premiership after charges that his wife held an illegal bank account in America, is seen by contrast as dour, cautious and reliable. Mr Peres has pledged support and Mr Rabin says that he will now devote his energy to turning Mr Shamir out of office in June.

It will be a battle of old men. Mr Shamir is 76, Mr Rabin almost 70. But it will be a battle for the young, and especially the new, vote. Thousands of immigrant Soviet Jews will vote for the first time. They are secular in outlook, anti-socialist by conviction and ambitious to find jobs and security. Mr Rabin can argue that he will not make deals with the religious parties, that he has little connection with Labour's old trade union socialism, and that Mr Shamir is to blame for the immigrants' lack of houses and jobs. If he can win all the new votes as well as recapturing the hawks who defected to Likud, he might break the paralysis that proportional representation has visited on Israeli politics. A Labour government would then be free to make peace at talks that have as yet gone nowhere.

## HISTORIANS AT WAR

The 17th century, once the battleground of royalists and parliamentarians, has become the centre of a fierce high table row between academics on both sides of the Atlantic. The focal point is Cambridge, where allegations of professional misconduct are severely souring the claret.

John Adamson, a fellow of Peterhouse, has found himself at loggerheads with Mark Kishlansky, professor of history at Harvard, over the reading of key documents from the English civil war. In a 75-page assault, Professor Kishlansky accused Dr Adamson of manipulating evidence about the 17th-century nobility. Dr Adamson's defenders challenge Professor Kishlansky's own use of archival sources. Lord Russell even alleges "malice rather than concern for scholarship". It was clear, Lord Russell maintains, that "Kishlansky was doing all the sorts of things he was accusing Adamson of." The Kishlansky camp replies that Dr Adamson's work is full of "serious and tendentious errors".

At stake in all this is Dr Adamson's re-election at Peterhouse, which is considered now to be in some doubt. An interim vote at the college last Monday went against him, though he is widely regarded by his supporters as one of the coming men of 17th-century history. Copies of articles criticising Adamson were handed out before Monday's vote. Dr Adamson himself says most of Professor Kishlansky's criticisms depend on "misreadings of primary sources or misunderstandings of parliamentary procedures". But he admits that in some cases more than one way of reading a document is viable.

Behind the dispute about the civil war is a deeper (and older) quarrel about historical

method, essentially whether a historian should start with facts or with theory. Dr Adamson's thesis, based on archival research, is that the revolution of the 17th century was a continuation of the baronial feud of the Middle Ages, a resumption, so to speak, of the Wars of the Roses. This version is rooted, Dr Adamson claims, on contemporary evidence, but is at odds with the more traditional view of the civil war, that it was a clash of ideologies: the importance of liberty and law to the property-owner class, the rise of the gentry, Puritanism and anti-popery, the rights of Parliament against the crown, even the ideas of Levellers and Diggers.

The dispute began in the *Historical Journal* and the *Journal of British Studies* and has now split into *The Times Literary Supplement*. Interventions have come over the past three weeks from a pantheon of historians, including Lords Dacre and Russell. The row is consuming senior common rooms as intensely as did the famous quarrel 11 years ago over the views of the "structuralist" English lecturer, Colin McCabe.

Should Dr Adamson lose his Peterhouse fellowship, his allies are mooted an appeal to the college Visitor, Dr Stephen Sykes. Bishop of Ely, a former Cambridge divinity don. But such an appeal could lead to a state of open war in Cambridge. Thus the truth or otherwise of a particular interpretation of history is starting to turn on the lobbying skills of rival teams of academic politicians. Eventual victory will depend on which faction commands the greatest common-room clout. It is an odd way of arriving at the truth. But as the warriors in this academic civil war know better than most, its history will be written, like all history, by the winner.

## Arts Council must keep funding role

From Sir Ian Hunter

Sir, I was alarmed to hear the minister for the arts, Timothy Renton, propound his idea for direct government funding for our major arts companies and the newly set up regional arts associations, at a seminar held at the Royal Society of the Arts on February 17.

The Arts Council, he implied, would be "kicked upstairs" and take on an advisory role. Those of us who have lived with the "arm's length" principle of funding through the Arts Council for over 40 years and seen the way it has worked must deplore the minister and his mandarins taking direct responsibility for distribution of funding.

The Arts Council may not be perfect but it has assembled a group of officers who are closer to the arts than the civil servants of Whitehall and certainly more experienced than the transient ministers who control them. Keynes, in setting up the Arts Council, knew what he was doing.

It seems to me intolerable that we should sit by and watch the Arts Council being shorn of its executive powers, and direct government funding put into its place.

If we allow the minister's proposals to go forward a ministry of culture, with its bureaucracy and potential political interferences, could be just around the corner.

Yours faithfully,  
 IAN HUNTER,  
 48 Hyde Park Gate, SW7  
 February 19.

## Art for export

From Sir Hugh Leggatt

Sir, It is widely believed that the minister for the arts, Mr Tim Renton, is empowered to ban the export of certain works of art without compensation.

However the reality is that the decision is not his but that of Mr Peter Lilley, the secretary of state for trade and industry. To date Mr Lilley has remained silent on this issue; his views would be most welcome as a matter of urgency not least to many of us in the London art trade.

Yours faithfully,  
 HUGH LEGGATT,  
 Leggatt Brothers,  
 17 Duke Street, St James's, SW1,  
 February 18.

## European flag

From Dr A. W. F. Edwards

Sir, The twelve-star European flag (letters, February 3, 14) will offend no one (except devotees of the decimal system), but its design is hardly appropriate for a grouping of European states. None of the countries involved has a star in its flag; a symbol which is distinctly non-European: Algeria, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Cuba, and on through the alphabet to the USA and Venezuela, but not Europe. Indeed, the natural conclusion on comparing the flag with others is that it is probably an American state flag (Indiana and Alaska both have gold stars on a blue ground).

The dominant patterns on European flags are the cross and (since the French revolution) the tricolour. The Community should hold a competition for a new design, which needs to be a bold reflection of the European heraldic tradition rather than the draft of an EC directive for a twelve-wire Europlog.

Yours faithfully,  
 A. W. F. EDWARDS,  
 Gonville and Caius College,  
 Cambridge,  
 February 17.

## Blame for Glencoe

From the Secretary of the Jacobite Society

Sir, I am glad to see Sir David Hunt's letter (February 19) quite rightly reminding us that the Edinburgh government was still in power during the slaughter at Glencoe.

I feel that I must, however, correct a quite frequent English mistake when referring to Scottish history. There has never been, and could never be, a "King of Scotland", as Sir David sees fit to name William of Orange. If we held him any such title then it must be King of Scots. The distinction, whilst being difficult for English historians to grasp, is not lost in the country of its origin.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,  
 CRAIG R. BUCHANAN,  
 Secretary, The Jacobite Society,  
 53 Eccleston Square, SW1,  
 February 19.

## Advertising tobacco

From Mr T. C. H. King

Sir, Winston Fletcher argues ("Ifs, buts and Brussels", February 13) that banning tobacco advertising does not work. The British government seems to understand this, yet Brussels does not nor do those supporting a ban. The conclusion reached by many studies of mature markets is that banning advertising does not reduce consumption.

Those supporting a ban find this factor inconvenient to their proposition. It would improve the constructive nature of the debate if the distinction between a mature market and an immature market

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## Public image of lawyers examined

From Dr Peter Gray

Sir, As a medical practitioner training to be a barrister, I can compare the complaints procedures used by doctors and lawyers. I agree with your leader-writer ("Lawyers in paradise", February 17) that reform of the latter is urgently required.

The General Medical Council holds its disciplinary hearings in public and its proceedings are frequently reported in the press. By contrast, disciplinary tribunals for solicitors and barristers are almost invariably held in private, and not even the aggrieved complainant has a right to attend.

How can the public have confidence in the self-regulation of these professions if they do not know what goes on?

Yours sincerely,  
 PETER GRAY,  
 Flat 5, 9 Hendon Avenue,  
 Finchley, N3,  
 February 18.

From the Chairman of the Bar Council

Sir, Your leading article was fair, though not uncritical. Lawyers spend their entire lives questioning other people and their practices. It is right that they should do the same to themselves.

1. Admission: Unfairness to women, ethnic minorities and, to a lesser extent, to those from unfashionable universities or polytechnics is endemic in our country. The entry to the Bar course in 1992 is: women, 42 per cent; ethnic minorities, 17 per cent; universities and polytechnics, 75.4 per cent; Oxford and Cambridge, 17.9 per cent. Not perfect, but not bad.

2. After admission: We have a race relations committee, and a sex discrimination committee. We have employed a highly qualified consultant to advise us on proper structures and practices to ensure fairness. It is

a professional offence under the Bar code to treat anyone unfairly on grounds of ethnic origin, sex or religious belief.

3. Governing the Bar: Women are in the position of chairman or vice-chairman of nine out of 16 important committees.

4. Fees: There is no feeling at the Bar that fees cannot be negotiated. Legal-aid fees are imposed upon us. Private fees are negotiated every day of the week.

5. Alternatives to litigation: The Bar took the lead in pressing for alternative methods of dispute resolution. Lord Justice Beldam agreed to chair a committee and produced a prompt report last year, at the request of the Bar.

6. Complaints: Our system is among the most draconian. Penalties (including fines, suspension, reprimand and disbarment) are regularly imposed. The Legal Services Ombudsman has a keen and welcome interest in our complaints procedures and is entitled to, and does, supervise individual complaints. No complaint against a barrister can be dismissed without the agreement of the lay member, who is present to represent the non-professional public interest.

7. Law reform: Our response to the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice goes back to first principles. It offers a radical scrutiny of the present creaking system.

But there is much more to be done. We must seriously question whether a Rolls-Royce service is either generally necessary or affordable, if many of the consumers would prefer a bus which got them to their destination promptly, cheaply and efficiently.

Yours faithfully,  
 GARETH WILLIAMS,  
 Chairman, The General Council of the Bar,  
 3 Bedford Row, WC1,  
 February 17.

## Ulster and Israel

From Mr David Trimble, MP for Upper Bann (Ulster Unionist Party)

Sir, Your editorial (February 18) comparing recent deaths in Ulster and the Lebanon reflects a widespread misunderstanding on the law relating to the use of force by members of the security forces, a misunderstanding so important that it vitiates your argument.

The law, and it is the same both in Northern Ireland and in England, does not limit the use of potentially lethal force, as you suggest, to self-defence. The law authorises the use of "such force as is reasonable in the circumstances in the prevention of crime, or in effecting or assisting in the lawful arrest of offenders or suspected offenders..." (Criminal Law Act (NI) 1967). There is judicial support for regarding the phrase "reasonable in the circumstances" as including the tests of "necessity" and "proportionality", but all these tests have to be judged against the background of the duty of the security forces to apprehend the wrongdoer.

It would be a breach of that duty to let terrorists escape simply because trying to intercept and arrest them might result in a firefight like that in Coalsland the other night. The police and army, like the posse, must get their man, and they must get him alive, if possible, and dead, if necessary.

Sincerely,  
 DAVID TRIMBLE,  
 House of Commons.

From Mr Stephen Alter

Sir, I congratulate your leader writer for his courage in equating Britain's struggle against the IRA with Israel's struggle against its own terrorist opponents. The similarities in the

situation have far too often been glossed over.

It is clear, however, from the words attributed to the new leader of Hezbollah Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah — viz. "our struggle... is a struggle of existence. It is either us or them and we can never co-exist together" (report, February 18) — that there is no room for compromise: the "declaration of war", allied to the calls for martyrdom, quite clearly shows that the terrorist opponents of Israel are prepared to stop at nothing to meet their ends. The actions of the IRA show that their intentions are precisely the same.

I conclude that it is the duty of a state to ensure that its opponents' blood is shed quicker than that of its own citizens and armies.

Yours faithfully,  
 STEPHEN ALTER,  
 16 Longwood Gardens,  
 Clayhall, Ilford, Essex.

From Mr H. D. Epstein

Sir, You are right, Sir, to note parallels in the two terrorist-affiliated situations of Israel and the UK and no amount of fastidious, self-righteous analysis of the detail, as in Lord Mayhew's letter (February 19), will obscure them. Those two states live daily with the fear and the challenge of terrorism, which, in both cases, erupts as the modern manifestation of deep-seated, historical problems.

If these essentially intractable struggles are to be resolved in our lifetime, the states concerned will have to show many qualities, amongst them tenacity, restraint and good will. Mutual understanding between those with parallel experiences might also be helpful.

Yours faithfully,  
 H. D. EPSTEIN,  
 1 Great Cumberland Place, W1.

## Threat to farmers

From Sir John Acland

Sir, Mr Colchester (letter, February 14) is less than fair to farmers. Beef farmers, in particular, are now getting some 9 per cent less for their finished animals than in 1989, while costs have risen over the same period by some 17 per cent. It also seems that prices in 1992 will be even lower than in 1991.

Under these circumstances — which were starkly highlighted only last week in a detailed report by Exeter University — it is not surprising that farmers are going out of business in ever-increasing numbers, nor that they detest the common agricultural policy as much as Mr Colchester does.

were to be understood.

Mature markets are characterised by widely distributed products, known to their potential purchasers for a considerable time, and available at an affordable price. Such is the market for tobacco, and alcohol, newspapers and many other product categories.

In these markets, the total market size tends to remain static, even sometimes showing a decline, except in cases where a product or a price changes significantly. Competition is enhanced by the opportunities that advertising brings, and advertisers manoeuvre to build brand loyalties, and to attract purchasers away from other manufacturers.

In immature markets, such as home computers, total market size will often show increases as more people become aware of the products, as they become more widely

Insult is further added to injury when the farmer sees that the price of beef to the consumer, from supermarket and butcher, is substantially higher now than it was one, two or three years ago. The producer at one end and the consumer at the other both suffer while, somewhere in the middle, fat profits are being made.

And so we come to Mr Gummer, who, as minister for food and agriculture, is presumably supposed to concern himself with the interests of both consumer and producer in this country. As things are, he and the government are most distantly failing both.

Yours faithfully,  
 JOHN ACLAND,  
 Feniton Court, Honiton, Devon,  
 February 16.

available, and often as the price decreases with technological advances. It is in such situations that brand advertising can be expected to play a significant role in increasing market size.

As far as the EC is concerned, it seems odd that an institution that purports to represent the very essence of competition is proposing a ban which will stultify this by blocking marketing freedoms in the manner proposed.

The British government, and the other free-market EC members, should be very careful not to allow this to happen.

Yours faithfully,  
 T. C. H. KING,  
 The Old Cottage, Blacknest Road,  
 Sunningdale, Berkshire,  
 February 14.

Business letters, page 23

## Tory link with Euro-brothers

From Mr Christopher Graffius

Sir, To qualify your report, "New deal marries Tories to Europe" (February 19), I should stress that there has been no "announcement of an alliance between the Conservative party and the Christian Democrats". A meeting of Christian Democrat heads of government and party leaders, held in Brussels on February 14, recommended that discussion should continue on a "working arrangement". It would be subject to the agreement of the Christian Democrat MEPs.

Dr Wilfried Martens, president of the Christian Democrat European People's party, who chaired the meeting, gave a press conference immediately afterwards and a statement was issued on February 17.

The meeting did not resolve difficulties over federalism and the social charter. It specifically criticised Mr John Major for having "taken a negative position at Maastricht concerning European political union, and more particularly concerning the social charter". Moreover the Christian Democrats understood that the Conservative MEPs, who have long been semi-detached from the British Tories on Europe, would seek to influence their own party towards the Christian Democrat position.

Mr Arto Oostlander, a Dutch Christian Democrat MEP who participated in the negotiations, speaking at a meeting at Up Holland, Lancashire, on January 4, said that members from all British political parties who shared a "Christian-inspired vision of man and society" would be at home among Christian Democrats in Europe. While speaking highly of individual MPs and MEPs he criticised the British Conservatives as pragmatists and in some areas "socially regressive".

The February 17 statement, in my view, holds out little promise of an eventual union. Instead it proposes a possible prolonging or development of a working relationship after the end of the current European Parliament in 1994 based on experience and agreement on the forthcoming Christian Democrat Euro-election manifesto.

As the last manifesto advocated a federal union, monetary union, the social charter, pro-life policies and keeping Sunday special, it seems unlikely to me that this courtesy by the British Tories will be consummated.

Yours faithfully,  
 CHRISTOPHER GRAFFIUS  
 (General Secretary,  
 Movement for Christian Democracy),  
 31 Terrace Road, E9,  
 February 19.

## Church 'superiority'

From His Honour Judge Sheerin

Sir, The understandable desire for an outbreak of good behaviour between lay persons, parsons, priests, and prelates (letters, February 13) should not be used to disguise differences of belief. When and where there is no distinction to be drawn between Anglicans and Catholics there can be no excuse for such division or claim of exclusiveness. Equally if there is division it ought to be explained, once again, to the laity at least, why those divisions continue.

It should not be a question of loyalty, superiority or even deference but of faith, piety and humility. These last three seem to be in short supply.

Yours truly,  
 JOHN SHEERIN,  
 Kingshall Farmhouse, Rougham,  
 Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

## Lost for words

From Lady Hayhoe

Sir, Mr Levin's piece on Monday ("The electronic peacemaker" and Mr Lyndon's today ("A user's guide to manual illiteracy", Life & Times) concerning the inability of so many of us to understand owners' manuals prompt me to suggest that we should all be so much more capable if this impossible verbiage was replaced by a short demonstration video. I suppose the current necessity would be a video to show us how to use our video recorders.

Yours faithfully,  
 ANNE HAYHOE,  
 20 Wool Road, SW20,  
 February 18.

## Brilliance matures

From Mr Raymond W. Lipton

Sir, Philip Howard, in writing on Mick Jagger's impending new role as grandfather ("Grand old man", February 18), suggests that "those who make their names as bolshie or brilliant youths should die young".

I suggest that he pops down to the Albert Hall this week and repeats that to the predominantly grey-haired audience, who, in a geriatric rush, pounced on the booking office, causing it to sell out within hours of opening, just for the chance to listen to one such brilliant youth, Eric Clapton. Now a grand old man of music, he remains brilliant.

Clapton, McCartney, Jagger & Co are not living on their reputations. It is not their youth but their talent that keeps them at the top of their profession.

Yours truly,  
 R. LIPTON,  
 Caudell Green Farm,  
 Carbrooke, Thetford, Norfolk,  
 February 18.







## OBITUARIES

### ROBERT GITTINGS

Robert Gittings, CBE, literary critic, poet and biographer of Keats and Thomas Hardy, died on February 18 at his home in Chichester aged 81. He was born in Southsea on February 1, 1911.

ROBERT Gittings was best known for his contributions to Keats scholarship. His biography of the poet is currently the definitive one. But he wrote many other books, especially a pioneering biography (in the sense, at least, that it offered a more unparaphrased scrutiny of its subject's personal life than had to that point appeared) of Thomas Hardy. And he was a distinguished minor poet.

His father was a naval surgeon whose life at that time consisted of two-year spells of duty, so the young Gittings saw the life of many ports, Plymouth and Rosyth among them. A painful spinal complaint kept the boy in bed for 18 months, and so he was late in starting his education. By the time he was able to do so his father (who had reached the rank of surgeon-captain) had gone into civilian practice as an ophthalmic consultant.

Gittings began his literary life as a poet, much encouraged by the staff of his school, St Edward's, Oxford; it was through schoolboy poems published at that time that he began his lifelong friendship with Arthur Harris, better known later as the verse playwright Christopher Fry, towards whom he acknowledged a profound debt.

Gittings went up to Jesus College, Cambridge, on a scholarship. He read history and took a first in the historical tripos in 1933. He went on to become a research student and research fellow between 1933 and 1938, and from 1938 to 1940 was a supervisor of studies at his college.

In 1932 he had published his first book, a collection of verse called *The Roman Road*. In 1937 he followed this with *The Story of Psyche*, a blank-verse re-telling of the myth. This was praised for its careful craftsmanship, but it was suggested that "the deeper tones of imaginative experience" were beyond the



author's capacity. This remained the standard judgment on his verse, which was none the less always conscientiously exact. He was in this sphere a graceful continuer of the Georgian tradition.

Gittings had been writing radio scripts throughout the 1930s and in 1940 he joined the staff of the BBC to do the same job. He remained there until 1963. He was the producer of the highly regarded series called *Famous Meetings*, as well as

many other programmes. He found well deserved literary fame in 1954 with the publication of *John Keats: The Living Year*, which remains his best, most original, most memorable and most directly felt book. Dealing with the most productive year of Keats's life, September 1818 to September 1819, it shone new and imaginative light on the poet's development. In it Gittings discovered a new and undoubted importance in Keats's hitherto scarcely

noticed liaison with Mrs Isabella Jones.

After two more books on aspects of Keats and an abortive foray into the field of Shakespearean studies (*Shakespeare's Rival*, 1960) Gittings produced in 1968 his magisterial biography *John Keats*. This was the fullest account of the poet's life ever to appear and although some readers preferred the critical approach taken in the biographies by Aileen Ward and Jackson Bates (both of which owed more than a little to *The Living Year*), this was certainly ahead in facts and new discoveries. Gittings's method was to make the fullest use of what he described as "non-academic sources". He became known as the most assiduous detective among British biographers and thus greatly compensated for his failure ever again quite to capture the sense of excitement that he had conveyed in *The Living Year*.

*John Keats*, which won the W. H. Smith Award of 1969, carried considerable authority. Even those who could not agree with all of Gittings's interpretations or felt he had not succeeded in capturing quite the psychological penetration of *The Living Year* had to concede that the book allowed them, as no other had before it, to live with the poet "almost from hour to hour". It was a major achievement.

Gittings's next project was a life of Thomas Hardy, of whom no biography had by then appeared that could be described as even adequate. His edition of *Emma Hardy's Some Recollections* (1961), done in collaboration with another writer, had received very rough handling from the late Henry Reed and was subsequently revised. Reed, who had known the second Mrs Hardy well, had for long been expected to write the definitive biography. But illness prevented that happening. Gittings failed to obtain Reed's co-operation in his work. This was a loss, as Michael Millgate's later biography, written with the benefit of Reed's expertise, showed. Gittings accomplished his task in

two volumes: *Young Thomas Hardy* (1975) and *The Older Hardy* (1978). These were received with respect and (especially the first volume) with gratitude for bringing hitherto unknown facts to light. But the biography did not excite the kind of attention that the work on Keats had done.

Earlier complaints about Gittings's lack of verbal — and critical — flair were revived. This was probably because he too evidently disliked Hardy as a man while grudgingly acknowledging his greatness as a writer. Curiously, he found little beauty or generosity of spirit in Hardy; yet readers had always discerned it from his books. The biography was for a time influential on a generation new to Hardy's writings, although Millgate's slightly later, more scholarly one, initiated independently, appeared in the general estimation to correct Gittings's moralising account. But the work did and does stand out as a conscientious record of the facts, and must serve any future biographer.

Gittings edited several books, including a notable annotated selection of Keats's letters, as well as an extended essay, *The Nature of Biography* (1970). His *Collected Poems* appeared in 1976. He also wrote a number of plays and a son et lumiere entertainment entitled *Conflict at Canterbury* (1970).

In 1934 he married Katherine Edith Campbell, by whom he had two sons. This marriage ended in divorce and in 1949 he married the writer Jo Manton, by whom he had a daughter. He was visiting professor at Vanderbilt University in 1966, at Boston University in 1970 and at the University of Washington on two occasions (1972 and 1974). Cambridge University awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1970 and in the same year he was appointed CBE.

Together with Jo Manton he wrote several books, including an admirable biography, *The Second Mrs Hardy* (1979).

### MERTON Y. KOPLIN

Merton Y. Koplin, an American television producer who was one of the key figures in a 1959 scandal over rigged quiz shows but went on to produce award-winning documentaries, died on February 15 aged 71. He was born in Milwaukee.

THE \$64,000 Question, a phrase that Merton Koplin introduced into the English language, was not all it seemed. Even President Eisenhower was thunderstruck when he discovered that this quiz show — one of the most-watched programmes in the history of television — was being dishonestly manipulated by its sponsors and producers.

By comparison with subsequent deceptions of the United States populace by Eisenhower's successors, Koplin's sin was a minor peccadillo. But it caused a public sensation when he confessed to a Congressional committee that he had, at the behest of the sponsor — the Revlon cosmetics company — manipulated both contestants and quiz questions to affect the outcome. The Revlon advertising executives, he said, had

pressured him to raise audience ratings by instilling more drama, forcing out unappealing contestants, and keeping popular ones winning. Koplin admitted "making suggestions," but denied any intention of rigging and any knowledge it was taking place.

The \$64,000 Question and its companion show, *The \$64,000 Challenge*, were not the only ones to be indicted in the investigation. Practically every major quiz show in the country fell foul of the rigging charges, and most were taken off the air.

Koplin's candour before the committee saved him from the perjury charges levelled at many of his peers, but it was some time before his career recovered. When it did, he became executive producer of the *PM* show, hosted by Mike Wallace, which is considered the prototype of the late-night talk and comedy format. He went on to co-produce the 19-part *Walk Through the 20th Century* with Bill Moyers, which won both Emmy and Peabody Awards in 1984.

He is survived by his wife, Janice, son and daughter.

## APPRECIATION

### Captain Colin McMullen



THAT great seaman, "Colin Mac" (obituary February 13) — "Skipper" to many — endeared himself to people without trying, and this quality, coupled with his great professional competence gave him outstanding qualities of leadership. The writer was privileged to see this demonstrated in 1944 when Colin took command of a Fleet

destroyer, the ship's company of which was war-weary. His personality had the ship on its toes again in a short time and watching him achieve this was a joyous lesson.

His dry, droll sense of humour was very near the surface; an over-serious seamanship discussion could be reduced to chuckles by a quiet voice interjecting "Merrily round the capstan — ho!" At moments of Teutonic interference when some might inwardly quake, he would say in an exaggerated Franglais accent, "Formidable!" and laughter would relieve the situation.

In an Arctic storm in January 1945 his ship, HMS *Scorpion*, was hove-to for two days and battered down. At midday the dim light revealed a giant wave, even bigger than the rest, bearing down upon the ship. Those with him on the open bridge were daunted, to put it mildly, and looked at Colin Mac for comfort. They were not disap-

pointed; he beckoned them to him, apparently to shout some orders above the screaming wind. In an exaggerated Long-John Silver-West-Country voice he bellowed: "Marrk my words — it don't blow like it used to." Long before the laughter subsided, the ship had bobbed up and over the giant wave.

During his last hand-capped and painful years, one never heard a word of complaint. Last summer he levered himself into his car, grinning at us as he drove away, said "Keep it on the Island", an enigmatic joke about the vital importance of the Gunnersy School traditions at Whale Island. His later letters always finished with "P.O.R." — Press on Regardless.

He was greatly loved and admired by many outside his own family. I hope we shall see his like again, but I doubt it.

A.G.F.D.

### WING COMMANDER ROBIN JOHNSTON

Wing Commander George Robert Arthur McGarel (Robin) Johnston, DSO, MBE, DFC, wartime fighter wing leader, died in Johannesburg on February 14 aged 75. He was born in Bloemfontein, Orange Free State, on September 2, 1916.

ROBIN Johnston was one of that distinguished band of South African-born pilots who made a contribution to Fighter Command's wartime effort which was out of all proportion to their numbers. He had a varied and, given the unrelenting stress such a life involved, lengthy combat career, fighting almost continuously from 1941 until he was taken off operations to concentrate on the refinement of fighter tactics in the autumn of 1944. As a leader of fighter wings he played an important role in gaining air supremacy over the Normandy battlefields after D-Day.

Continuing his education in Britain in the 1930s after his early schooling in South Africa, he went to Cambridge University where he joined the air squadron in 1937. In 1938 he was commissioned in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

He thus had plenty of flying experience when war broke out but his combat flying career did not begin until he was posted to 73 Squadron in North Africa. This gave him great opportunities as No 73 was one of the most effective units in the theatre and in one fortnight shot down 50 aircraft.

Soon in the thick of the fighting, Johnston damaged a Ju 87 Stuka and two Italian bombers, both Savoia SM 79s, before claiming his first combat victory, over an Me 109 fighter, in February 1942. His skill as a tactician was remarked and he was soon given command of the squadron, which fought throughout the rest of the North African campaign. Before he returned to Britain at the end of the campaign, with another victory to his credit, Johnston had been awarded the DFC. He was

now posted as commanding officer of No 65 squadron, which in the months before D-Day was involved in fighter sweeps over the continent.

On D-Day the squadron did valuable work protecting the highly vulnerable allied glider fleets whose safety was so vital to the success of the airborne component of the landings. By this time Johnston was leading a wing of three Mustang squadrons, including his original squadron, No 65.

Once the bridgehead had been established on the Normandy coast, Johnston was involved in tactical operations in support of the advancing allied armies, a task which was made the easier when it moved to one of the earliest advanced fighter bases to be established on French soil. Thus, its squadrons could react within minutes to requests by army commanders in the field for air power to suppress enemy resistance. Indeed, the success of allied tactical air power in June, July and August 1944, was one of the most innovative features of the Normandy campaign and German commanders marvelled (albeit in utter despair) at the way their troops and tanks were mercilessly harried by enemy planes as soon as they tried to move.

During these weeks Johnston shot down several German fighters, both Messerschmitt Me 109s and a Focke-Wulf FW 190 and was awarded both the DSO for his leadership and a bar to his DFC. His score stood at 7½ when in September he was brought back to Britain — though it was probably a good deal higher as he had a large number of "probables" and damaged aircraft to his credit.

His skill as a fighter leader was reflected in his final wartime appointment as Wing Commander Tactics at the Central Fighter Establishment at Tangmere. He subsequently received the Air Efficiency Award and was mentioned in dispatches. After returning to South Africa, where he lived until his death.

### HERMANN AXEN



Hermann Axen, former member of the East German communist party politburo, died in Berlin on February 15 aged 75 after a long illness. He was born in Leipzig on March 6, 1916.

THE career of Hermann Axen in many ways mirrored the rise and fall of East Germany, for which he did so much to win international recognition. A Jew who was a lifelong communist, he survived three years in two of the worst Nazi concentration camps before helping to create a "socialist Germany". He died discredited, probably saved from prison only by the fact that he was too ill to stand trial for corruption.

The son of a communist party worker, Axen fell foul of the Nazi party when he joined the Young Communist League in 1932 while still a schoolboy. The following year he was first arrested as part of a Nazi clampdown and in 1935 was sentenced to three years imprisonment. Following his release in 1938 he fled to Paris, but was interned by the Vichy government in 1940 and handed over to the Germans in 1942. Sent first to Auschwitz, he was transferred later to Buchenwald before being liberated there by the Soviet army at the end of the war in 1945.

Immediately he flung himself into organisational work for the youth section of the communist party, becoming secretary for agitation and propaganda and then, in 1949, head of propaganda. When he became too old for the youth movement, he started work in Berlin for the East German party proper, the Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands (SED). He became a member of the central committee in 1950, second secretary of the Berlin area from 1953 to 1956 and then for ten years became editor of *Neues Deutschland*, the main party newspaper.

### Bernard Krikler

BERNARD ("Bunny") Krikler, assistant director of the Wiener Library under Walter Laqueur from 1973 to 1988, has died aged 65. He was born in what is now Zimbabwe and first came to Britain in 1950 as a member of the South African Universities debating team. After a brief engagement with revolutionary politics, Krikler left South Africa for good in 1951, settling in London as part of the South African Jewish diaspora. After a period teaching he joined the Wiener Library, ultimately becoming

assistant to Professor Walter Laqueur and editing its monthly bulletin and political quarterly. In the early Eighties when the future of the library was financially threatened Krikler threw himself into fund-raising to help secure its future. He was known to his circle of close friends — they included the writers Dan Jacobson and A. Alvarez — as a man of acute critical intelligence, of obdurate honesty and generous human understanding, of formidable articulacy about political and ideological issues. He is survived by his wife, Berenice, and his daughter.

### Dr Hacib Aoun

DR HACIB Aoun, who was one of the earliest health care workers to be infected with the HIV virus, and who became a tireless champion for the rights of his fellow doctors and nurses, died of complications from AIDS at his home in Glen Arm, Maryland, on February 16 aged 36. It was a chance accident at Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore in 1982 that ended Hacib Aoun's promising medical career. A cardiologist, he was a chief resident of medicine at Johns Hopkins when a test tube of contaminated blood broke in his hand and pierced a thumb. He was diagnosed in 1986 as having AIDS. Aoun lost his job — the ensuing law suit was settled out of court — and spoke out against mandatory testing of health care workers for HIV because of likely discrimination against those infected. He exhorted interns and residents to ensure that they had insurance against contracting an illness on the job. "They ask you to go on the front lines in medicine, saying you have a moral and ethical duty to do it," he said in an interview in 1990, "and you go willingly. But if something happens, you are on your own."

### Gray's Inn

The following have been elected Masters of the Bench of Gray's Inn: Mr Frederic Reynolds, QC, Mr Michael Lewellyn Tucker Harvey, QC, Mr Michael Edward Lewis, QC, and Mr Conrad Seagrave, QC. Lord Grey of Naunton and Professor James Crawford, Whewell professor of international law at Cambridge University, have been elected honorary masters of the bench.

### University news

Oxford The title of professor of the art of The Netherlands has been conferred on C.J. White, Director of the Ashmolean Museum.

## Birthdays today

The King of Norway celebrates his birthday today. Mr Humphrey Berkeley, writer and broadcaster, 66; Sir John Bourn, Comptroller and Auditor General, 58; Professor Ruth Bowden, anatomist, 77; the Earl of Carlisle, 69; Mrs Jill Cooper, author, 55; Sir Colville Dewar, former governor, Mauritius, 85; Mr Leslie Durbin, silversmith, 79; Dame Janet Fookes, MP, 56; Mr Carron Greig, former chairman, Baltic Exchange, 67; Sir Michael Grylls, MP, 58; Sir Conrad Heron, civil servant, 76. Sir Reginald Hibbert, diplomat, 70; Sir John McGregor, former chairman, British Nuclear Fuels, 71; Lord Hunter,

79; Mr Peter McNery, actor, 52; Mr Robert Mugabe, Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, 68; Professor Sir Rupert Myers, former vice-chancellor, University of New South Wales, 71; General Sir Robert Pascoe, 80; Sir Ashley Ponsbury, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, 71; Professor J.H.D. Prescott, principal, Wye College, Kent, 55. Lieutenant-General Sir John Richards, Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, 65; Professor F.R. Rimmer, former professor of music, 78; Mr Richard Turner-Warwick, urologist, 67; Mr L. Wagner, director, North London Polytechnic, 49; Mr David Wood, actor and playwright, 48.

## Appointments

Latest appointments include: Dr Roger Vaughan, joint chief executive of Swan Hunter, to be a member of the National Curriculum Council (NCC). Mr John Gilbert Hanson, Deputy Director General of the British Council, to be a member of the governing body of the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University.

## Luncheon

Luncheon Comment Club Sir Derek Barber was the guest speaker at a luncheon of the Luncheon Comment Club held yesterday at the New Connaught Rooms. Mr Stuart Drummond, chairman, presided.

## Latest wills

Lord Moulson, of Westminster, former MP and President of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, left estate valued at £574,542 net. He left £35,000 to New College, Oxford, and much of the residue to charity, as his trustees select. Judge John Hampden Inskip, of Bramshot, Hampshire, recorder of Bournemouth 1970-82, left estate valued at £733,016 net. Mr Victor Azzam, of London W4, left estate valued at £3,920,087 net. He left his estate mostly to personal legacies. Mr Charles John Hughes Chetwynd Talbot, of Flettington, Gwynedd, former Reuter foreign correspondent, left estate valued at £212,598 net. Professor Fritz Jacoby, of Roundhay, Leeds, professor of history at the University of Wales College, Cardiff, left estate valued at £339,222 net. Mr Richard Lionel Lea Priestley Edwards, of Windsor, Berkshire, left estate valued at £764,442 net. He left £2,450 to personal legacies and the residue to the Leukemia Research Fund. Mr Terence Hards, of Morecombela, Dorset, poet and playwright, left estate valued at £52,689 net. Mr Marcel Noel Buckingham, of Liverpool 15, left estate valued at £133,931 net. He left the entire amount to the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development.



# Jackson fan wins by a nose

BY ALISON ROBERTS

WHICH of the three Rolls-Royces and four Mercedes in the Dorchester car park had carried Michael Jackson? That was the question provoking heated debate yesterday among the crowd waiting outside for a glimpse of their idol. Most touched all seven, just to be sure.

And why was he in England anyway? Was he visiting Benny Hill in hospital, going shopping or getting over his traumatic African tour, which was cut short under mysterious circumstances?

The speculation had followed the pop singer and his 26-strong team of managers and minders from Stansted airport, Essex, to the London hotel, where the entourage is expected to stay for

to four days. They were rumoured to have taken an entire floor of the hotel at a cost of £6,000 a day. The adoration of a posse of fans from Leicester who braved the cold for five hours knew no bounds. Denise Pfeiffer, aged 21, had seen Jackson, aged 33, in concert 18 times all over Europe. Lee Ron, aged 16, from Hackney, northeast London, said: "You don't understand what it means; that one moment when you see him keeps you going for weeks and weeks, it makes everything different for ages."

The crowd was entertained by Jackson lookalike Mark Antony who danced tirelessly. "I became a fan at the age of three," he said. The fans had to be content with his impressions. At 1.15pm, a black Ford Scorpio pulled out

of the hotel's garage containing a coy Jackson, holding a red jumper to his face, and the American boy, aged ten, who has become his friend and travelling companion. Youngsters raced after the car and as soon as it stopped at red traffic lights threw themselves at it.

Jackson, whose latest album *Dangerous* is in the charts, was spotted later, wearing a fedora and buying books in the children's section of Foyle's in Charing Cross Road.

The musician's trying day was not quite over. On his return to the hotel he was ambushed by about 50 fans who snatched at his clothing, causing minders alarm. Jackson lost his footing as one girl shouted: "I've got his jumper, I've got it! It smells lovely!"



Star gazing: dedicated fans brave the cold outside the Dorchester for a rare sighting of their idol



Under cover: Jackson and friend go shopping

## De Klerk puts reforms to white referendum

Continued from page 1

undisturbed, it is necessary that we bring this matter to a head. We must resolve this difference between us in a democratic manner. The time has arrived to test whether white voters want this process to continue."

Mr de Klerk said the move should not be construed as an attempt to introduce a white veto on constitutional changes, but rather to resolve leadership issues raised by the Conservative party. He wished to test them on the basis of one man, one vote.

The political consensus was that Mr de Klerk's initiative was a shrewd response to the election result at Potchefstroom in the western Transvaal on Wednesday. The Conservatives had been expected to capture the Nationalist stronghold, a predominantly

Afrikaner constituency, but the margin of its victory — more than 2,000 votes — surprised ministers.

Mr de Klerk said, on the eve of the election, that he regarded it as a barometer of white opinion on the reform process, and the triumphant right wing was happy to endorse that view.

Dr Treurnicht, who celebrated his 71st birthday on election day, said the result proved the Nationalists no longer represented whites and had no mandate to negotiate the future. "It is a message that, while we are prepared to co-operate with them, they are not in a position to decide on our future."

Diehard foiled, page 13

## Deadly Cobras rain down terror

SUDDENLY the beige-and-green Cobra helicopter darted out from behind a low hill its engine snarling as it wheeled in the Star of David visible on its side. There was only a split second to take in the danger before there was a loud explosion and a chunk of the road erupted.

The driver, Mohammad Hajj, leapt from his car and bit the ground outside the Kafa village to the south of Beirut. He crawled frantically towards a fortification for the UN peacekeeping force and huddled with myself and three other journalists inside a concrete fortification.

It was easy to see why our green BMW had attracted the attention of the Israeli pilot crouched forward in the cockpit of the Cobra, heavy machine-gun protruding from its chin — ours was the only car that had ventured into this area near the Israeli

*The sound and fury of an Israeli raid on a village of south Lebanon is recorded by Ali Jaber*

security zone where tanks had moved into Lebanon to protect the village.

For miles we had driven down deserted roads. Suddenly, there it was, hovering just above the ground, starting at us like an enraged mosquito ready for its victim. We were stunned for a few seconds.

The rocket's flash blinded us then a deafening sound sent us all storming outside the car and into the blue-and-white UN fortification for the accidental appointment with Mohammad Hajj. The smell of gunpowder filled the air. The rocket had impacted 15 yards away. We were caught

in the middle of a vast landscape with Israeli tanks rolling towards us from the east, guerrillas firing at our direction from the south and helicopters with deadly rockets buzzing in the sky above. It seemed like minutes before I collected my nerves and switched on the tape recorder to record the driver's story.

For him the new assault on Lebanon had begun early that morning with a voice speaking in broken Arabic. It was an Israeli officer warning residents of the village to leave their homes before tanks start to roll down the hill. He rushed to move his elderly father and mother who live on the other side of the village. He could not make it on time. His father, aged 86, and mother, 70, had already fled on foot and got lost in the woods.

After half an hour of being squeezed like sardines under cover the buzzing of the helicopter faded away, signalling our chance to escape. We rushed back to the car and drove past a two-by-two meter crater caused by the rocket that was supposed to destroy our car. Fleeing for Beirut we were stopped by young gunmen in combat fatigues, trying to hitchhike to safety. After our encounter with the helicopter their machine guns hardly scared us so we drove past them, dashing for the next village.

On the way to Beirut thousands of cars carrying refugees and bedding jammed the coastal highway. The few vehicles heading for the fighting carried gunmen ready for the civil war that many think may not be rekindled. A reminder that peace in Lebanon is only temporary and war is the only constant.

Tank thrust, page 12

## Political sketch

### Poor old Patten has a bad trip

There have been record seizures of ecstasy, John Patten, the Home Office minister, was telling MPs as his sketchwriter entered the gallery. So they've nicked Hecelene? I looked round at Mr Patten's audience of backbenchers. Not much ecstasy now. Blearsy eyes and nervous scowls betrayed a House under the influence of something, but surely not ecstasy? I looked it up on my health department card.

Let me explain about the card. Concerned last week at the strange behaviour in the chamber of Frank Haynes (Lab, Ashfield) and anxious to discover whether the 65-year-old MP might be sniffing glue, I rang the drugs helpline (freefone 0800 555 777) posing as an anxious parent. They sent me an information pack. It includes a sliding card arrangement. One card slides within another to disclose messages in special windows. Pull the inner card until the arrow points at (for instance) "ecstasy" then read the three windows under (1) Effects & Symptoms; (2) Look for; and (3) Dangers. The information appropriate to the drug appears in each window. It works both ways: slide the symptom you have spotted into the Effects & Symptoms window, and see which drug the arrow indicates.

Mr Patten was still banging on. I moved the arrow to "ecstasy" (main heading: MDMA: Stimulant). Into the Effects window moved the word "increased energy". No, Mr Patten was the same laid-back smoothie as ever. Look for? "Tablets, varying colours". No. Red boxes and crib-sheets of varying colours lay around him on the bench, but no tablets. Dangers? "Possible damage to brain". Yes, this does seem to have occurred, but could easily be explained by years spent as Home Office minister responsible for crime statistics. Probably not, I concluded, ecstasy.

The police, Mr Patten continued, eyes bulging with pride, "have been very successful during the course of the last year." I slid my card to "illusions and hallucinations". Aha! "pupil dilation". Look for: "squares of paper". Aha! Right there on the dispatch box in front of him — expressions of fear and anxiety? There were

these, too: "no, no and no again." Patten was growing to a backbencher who had intervened on this question.

So what drug was the arrow indicating? I checked. "LSD (Hallucinogen)", it said. *Dangers: "Bad Trips"*. Anyone who has seen Mr Patten after one of his meetings with the Police Federation has noticed the effect. "Flashbacks", added my card. "As one of the conclusions of the Maasricht settlement..." added the minister.

Confident of our diagnosis, I turned to another minister, Peter Lloyd, answering a question from Sir Donald Thompson (C, Calder Valley) about the Urban Crime Fund. Mr Lloyd seemed agitated. He was wringing his hands. Sliding my card to "Anxiety, possible paranoia and psychological disturbance", I listened as Lloyd began his reply. He was talking about areas eligible for grants.

"That's the wrong answer," shouted Sir Don. The minister jerked his head round. "Lack of co-ordination" said my card.

"I've given my hon friend the right answer. He asked the wrong question," said Mr Lloyd, suddenly grinning. "Irrelevant giggling," said my card. It was all falling into place. Where did the arrow point? "Cannabis", the card said. "Pot, Grass, Ganja, Hash, Dope, Wacky Baccy".

In all honesty, though, I cannot report noticing the "strong herbal-type smell of burning leaves" the card promised. Nor, with Mr Patten, could I work out from the card whether the "visions of joy and beauty" were a reference to the minister himself — his hair was certainly looking nice — or to his own experiences.

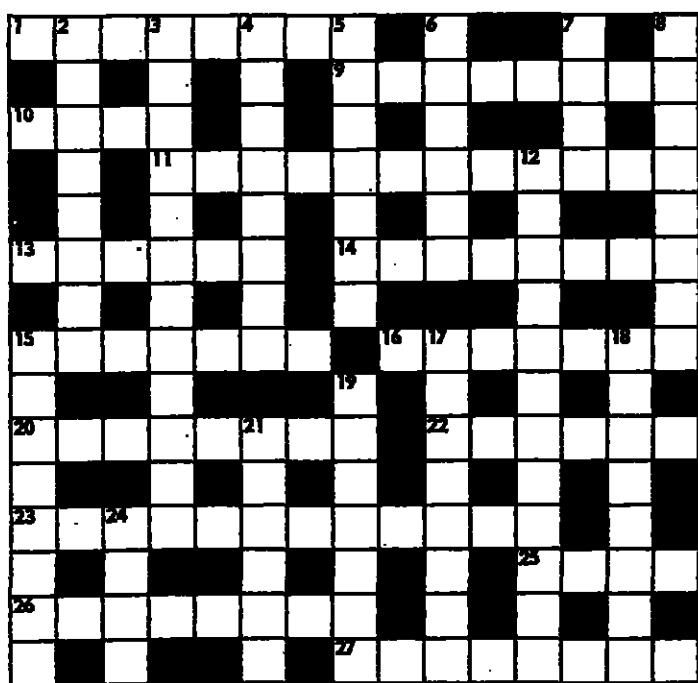
So our shock hypothesis linking MPs to drugs remains no more than a guess. And there is a much simpler explanation. It just could be something to do with the election.

If so, there is an unkind twist on the Commons order paper, headed "Early Day Motion number 100: Deal People and the General Election". It calls on the government to ensure that party political broadcasts reach the deaf.

How, as Michael Neuber (C, Romford) asked yesterday, can MPs be so cruel?

MATTHEW PARRIS

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,847



- ACROSS**
- 1 Kitty turned awkward situation into means of escape! (8).
  - 9 One who shares opportunity with a friend (4-4).
  - 10 Trade alliance covering distribution (4).
  - 11 Sending a dot to make a call (4-8).
  - 13 Take sides about female imprisoned by governor in the Tower (6).
  - 14 Choose judge with the right qualifications (5-3).
  - 15 The driver's right in an illegal position (7).
  - 16 The Church is in a kind of eclipse, writes intellectual (7).
  - 20 Only endless play can create a facility for composition (8).
  - 22 Morals corrupted by champers? (6).
- DOWN**
- 23 Promise to present unit with a weapon (4,4,4).
  - 24 Clothing to boast about (4).
  - 25 Territory controlled by Darwin from Scotland perhaps (8).
  - 27 Decline to go round the country (4-4).
  - 1 Where the tabcloth might go on the other side (8).
  - 2 Influence a racy individual to gain unfair advantage (4,1,4,3).
  - 4 Astonished public observe Dutch leader (4-4).
  - 5 Learned what is said in France after game in Europe ends (7).
  - 6 Ornamental miniature box, say (6).
  - 7 Show extreme affection for wife in the cooler (4).
  - 8 Rottentop repartee to watch, possibly (8).
  - 12 A contemporary record containing the facts admitted (12).
  - 15 Kindly doing a favour (8).
  - 17 Order regiment to Berlin, for instance (8).
  - 18 Prop for, perhaps, a vocal solo (6).
  - 19 Hothard abandoned the game, the ignorant fellow (7).
  - 21 An American would put this on runners (6).
  - 24 Exceedingly light (4).

The solution to the Eliminator puzzle No 18,846 will appear on Thursday, February 27

Congee Crossword is on page 9 of Life & Times

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

- JIM CROW**  
a. A wartime lookout  
b. A North American Indian  
c. A pious jackdaw
- FILIBEG**  
a. To beg from one's friends  
b. Winter cross  
c. The hill
- POTATORY**  
a. An Essex Man Conservative  
b. Starting up by speech  
c. Pertaining to drinking
- ECHOLALIA**  
a. Repeating someone's words  
b. Handled Water Dropwort  
c. The bib in order

Answers on page 16

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Tel: 0272 234634. Fax: 0272 225677.

Much of England and eastern Scotland will be dry with some sunshine. Cloudy with some drizzle in Wales and northwest England. Northern Ireland and southwest Scotland will be sunny, becoming cloudier with rain after dark, while there will be sleet, snow and rain showers over central and northern Scotland. Outlook: mild, cloudy with some rain in Scotland and Northern Ireland, brighter and generally dry elsewhere.

MIDDAY: In-london: d-dzozko: lg-log: a-sun: s-sleet: m-snow: i-fair: c-cloud: m-rain				Sun		Rain		Max				
				F	F	F	F	F	F			
Aleppo	11	C	F	Malaga	11	C	F	Aberdeen	7	F	48	sunny
Almaty	11	12	54	Malina	11	12	54	Anglesey	10	0.01	47	48 rain
Alor d'Al	15	59	91	Mallorca	18	46	86	Armagh	17	0.01	48	49 rain
Amman	15	59	91	Mantova	15	59	91	Belfast	10	0.01	48	49 bright
Amritsar	15	59	91	Maracaibo	15	59	91	Birmingham	17	0.01	48	49 cloudy
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Athens	15	59	91	Miami	26	82	82	Bristol	17	0.01	48	49 cloudy
Atlanta	15	59	91	Minsk	15	59	91	Buenos Aires	18	0.02	48	49 cloudy
Bangkok	7	43	91	Montreal	3	0	32	Cardiff	10	0.01	48	49 cloudy
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Political sketch  
Poor old Patten  
has a bad trip

- BUSINESS NEWS 19-27
- INFOTECH 28,29
- YOUR OWN BUSINESS 27
- SPORT 30-36

# THE TIMES BUSINESS

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

19

## Coal executive in stronger position after gag lifted

BY ROSS TIEMAN  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MALCOLM Edwards, the embattled commercial director of British Coal, was back at his desk in the corporation's Hobart House headquarters in London yesterday after delivering the bombshell that Neil Clarke, the group's chairman, has striven for more than four months to contain.

Two floors down, Mr Clarke was attempting to stem the media interest excited by Mr Edwards' confirmation that British Coal could be reduced to just 12 pits by 1996. Mr Clarke must also have been wondering whether his efforts to displace Mr Edwards — including a brawl through

the commercial director's past expenses claims and an examination of invoices from Alliance International, the advertising and public relations group — might be backfiring. Mr Clarke's strategy, since becoming chairman of British Coal in January last year, has been to manage an accelerated programme of pit closures with the minimum of fuss. To pursue that goal, he had to silence Mr Edwards.

Unlike his boss, Mr Edwards has been in the coal industry since he was 22, and he is an extrovert. After 35 years, he has become one of the industry's most respected figures, and an outspoken proponent of coal as a more cost effective fuel than nuclear power or gas. Last spring, as he saw coal's

market threatened by a huge gas power station building programme unleashed by electricity privatisation, Mr Edwards began to speak out.

Mr Clarke, an austere accountant and professional manager, could no longer live with the ruckus. By the end of last year, he had assumed charge of the corporation's key negotiations with the electricity generating companies, which buy more than three quarters of British Coal's output. He appointed the number two in the commercial department, Andrew Horsler, as director general of marketing.

Mr Edwards was invited to leave his £70,000-a-year job, and offered a two-year consultancy agreement that would bar him

from working for anyone else in the coal industry, or from speaking out. A large part of the settlement would be payable only on completion of the consultancy period. Mr Edwards refused to sign. While repeatedly declining to discuss his predicament, he does not hesitate to say: "Nobody is going to stop me speaking out in defence of the coal industry. I have spent my life in it and I happen to believe in it." Mr Edwards has sought legal advice from Denise Kingsmill, of DJ Freeman, the lawyer who also acts for George Walker.

Outside Hobart House, Mr Edwards' friends, admirers, and even past opponents have been bewildered by the confrontation. Lord Eara, a former chairman of British

Coal, said: "I found him a very able head of the marketing department." A senior figure in the coal industry said: "The idea of muzzling him is nonsense. I think the only way to resolve this now is to give him a generous settlement and leave him free to speak his mind."

The man who took the gag off Mr Edwards on Wednesday was Michael Clark, the Conservative chairman of the energy select committee. While the battle between Mr Edwards and Mr Clarke has fanned concern over prospects for British Coal, the two agree on at least one thing. Unless the "dash for gas" is halted, British Coal faces massive contraction over the next four years.

### TODAY IN BUSINESS

#### DEPRESSION



What lessons has John Major, a stickler for research, drawn from the Thirties slump about the present recession? Parallels between the Thirties and Nineties  
Page 23

#### EQUALITY

The proportion of pension schemes with similar pension ages for men and women is rising. But women's working lives are becoming longer  
Page 21

#### HOPEFUL



Wall Street rose 41 points to 3,271 by lunchtime. Analysts are hoping for further interest cuts to boost the economy  
US trade, page 21

#### TOMORROW

#### PROFILE



Paul Orchard-Lisle, senior partner of Healey & Barker, the chartered surveyor, has a lifestyle from a Wodehouse novel but a lust for hard work

#### PENSIONS

Weekend Money looks at measures that are needed to protect company pension fund members and pensioners

### THE POUND

US dollar 1.7475 (-0.0082)  
German mark 2.8860 (+0.0014)  
Exchange index 90.6 (-0.1)  
Bank of England official base rate (4pm)

### STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share 1989.4 (+14.1)  
FT-SE 100 2543.4 (+6.7)  
New York Dow Jones 3274.15 (+43.83)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 20771.92 (+153.62)

### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%  
3-month interbank 10%  
3-month bill 9.5%  
US: Prime Rate 6 1/4%  
Federal Funds 4 1/4%  
3-month Treasury Bill 3.88-3.89%  
30-year bond 100 1/4-100 1/2

### CURRENCIES

London: New York  
£ \$1.7504  
£ DM1.6470  
£ Sfr1.4885  
£ FF16.7876  
£ Yen125.55  
£ Index 84.2  
ECU 10.78995  
SDR 10.78995  
ECU 1.04447  
SDR 1.269638

### GOLD

London Fixing:  
AM \$353.05 pm \$353.40  
close \$353.00-353.50 (€202.10)  
New York:  
Comex \$352.75-353.25

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar) ... \$17.85 bbl (\$17.75)

### RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135.6 January (1987=100)  
\* Denotes midday trading price

## UK sinking rather than bumping along

# Output decline is biggest since Thirties

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

BRITAIN is sinking further into the longest recession in postwar history, with no sign of a let-up in the economy's rate of decline.

Last year's gross domestic product, the most comprehensive measure of activity throughout the economy, declined by 2.5 per cent, the biggest annual fall since the Thirties. In the fourth quarter alone, GDP fell by 0.3 per cent, reversing the small 0.2 per cent rise in the third quarter. Because the upward blip in the third-quarter GDP figure was due entirely to safety-related fluctuations in North Sea oil output, even government ministers have

conceded that the underlying trend in the onshore economy continued to be one of steady decline.

This message was reinforced by yesterday's figures for GDP excluding oil and gas output. This measure of activity, generally considered to be the best indicator of underlying economic conditions, fell by 0.4 per cent in the fourth quarter. This was exactly the same as the rate of decline in the second and third quarters of 1991.

The figures implied that the economy was not "bumping along the bottom" in the second half of last year, as had been assumed by most private economists as well as by government spokesmen.

Instead, the economy had continued to sink for the sixth successive quarter, with no sign of deceleration in the rate of decline.

The six quarters of consecutive decline marked the present recession as clearly the longest on record, at least in terms of the onshore economy. In the recession of the early Eighties, previously the longest on record, total GDP declined for five consecutive quarters, while output measure of onshore GDP declined for only four quarters in a row.

In terms of depth, however, the present recession is still much shallower than the slump of the early Eighties. So far, the decline in total GDP since its peak in the second quarter of 1990 has been 3.7 per cent, while the decline in onshore output has been 3.9 per cent. In the 1980 recession, the peak to trough decline in total GDP was 5.5 per cent and the fall in onshore gas output 6.2 per cent.

City economists had generally expected yesterday's GDP figures to show a further fall in the fourth quarter, but had hoped at least to see the rate of decline slowing. The fact that the economy was still declining quite rapidly at the end of last year suggested that the recession was probably still deepening in the present quarter and might even continue into the second quarter of 1992.

Government statisticians confirmed that several of the industries that had been showing signs of recovery last summer began to decline again in the last three months of the year. Last week, the Central Statistical Office published industrial production statistics that showed manufacturing output falling by 1.2 per cent in the fourth quarter, compared with a decline of only 0.1 per cent the quarter before. Yesterday's GDP figures included the first official estimates of the service sectors of the economy, many of which also appeared to have suffered steeper declines.

Lessons for Major, page 23

## January bank lending higher than expected

BY OUR FINANCIAL EDITOR

BANK and building society lending rose by £3.4 billion last month, allowing for seasonal adjustments for tax payments. The rise, which was more than expected, was a recovery from December's £1.1 billion and the six-month average of £2.3 billion, but was still the lowest January increase for five years.

There was little sign of any upturn in borrowing by consumers. Individuals repaid a net £252 million on 'high street' bank loans after running up accrued interest of £1 billion in December.

M0, the narrow measure of money supply, fell by 0.2 per

cent in January after a 0.3 per cent rise in December, underlining the depressed state of the cash economy. Over 12 months, M0 is up 2.2 per cent, against 2.8 per cent in the year to December and the Treasury target range of 0.4-1.2 per cent. Over the past three months, M0 has risen at an annual rate of 1.3 per cent.

There is some sign that growth of M4, the wider measure of money, might be bouncing out at about 6 per cent. M4 increased by 0.4 per cent last month after 0.8 per cent in December, leaving annual growth unchanged at 6.2 per cent.

## Never mind width of shares, feel depth

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT  
FINANCIAL EDITOR

WIDER share ownership, promoted for 20 years and boosted by privatisation, is passé. Three quarters of shareholders own shares in only one or two companies, few own anything other than privatised stocks and few have ever traded shares except to cash government sale discounts.

Deeper share ownership is the new goal. It is symbolised by the launch of ProShare, a powerfully backed organisation with a budget of £1 million a year. Chaired by Sir Peter Thompson, former chairman of NCF, ProShare has recruited Geoffrey Maddrell, ex-Tootal, as its chief executive. It plans to educate private investors, companies, schoolchildren and the Inland Revenue about the advantages of employee and individual share



Share apostles: Thompson (left) and Maddrell

ownership. As part of the task, ProShare will launch in May a national association for private investors with its own magazine, a catalogue of discounts and the aim of creating a representative organisation.

This is planned to stimulate investors' interest in anything from tax breaks, to paperless share trading, to the anomaly that company



company shares in 1957 to only 21 per cent in 1989, a trend unbroken by the tide of privatisation.

ProShare has already petitioned the Chancellor to allow tax relief on savings of up to £100 a month put into individual shares.

ProShare is the designer name for what Sir Peter Thompson and Sir John Harvey-Jones, chairman of the former Wider Share Ownership Council, called the share ownership movement.

Sir Peter's rescue of the formerly state-owned NCF made him an apostle of employee shareholding. He is disappointed that, despite enabling measures in eight of the past nine Budgets, only 16 per cent of employees have shares or options in the companies for which they work.

Mr Maddrell aims to reverse the fall in individual ownership from two thirds of



## Top job row at Porsche

ARNO Bohn, management board chairman of Porsche AG, yesterday asked the company's supervisory board to decide on his future by the end of February, saying he would make himself unavailable for reappointment unless they did so.

Herr Bohn's ultimatum followed a supervisory board meeting that had been expected to put an end to months of speculation over the leadership of the sports car maker.

The German press has suggested that his days at Porsche were numbered because of sliding profits and sales. It became clear this week that Wolfgang Reitzle of Bayerische Motoren Werke AG (BMW) had received an offer from Porsche. BMW said Herr Reitzle would remain with the firm. Herr Bohn became management board chairman of Porsche in early 1990 and his contract is due to expire by the end of this year.

"Against expectations, yesterday's supervisory board meeting did not reach a decision regarding my reappointment," Herr Bohn wrote in a statement. "I consider the continuing speculation over the filling of the job as management board chairman of Porsche AG as damaging for the company and have therefore demanded a decision

about my reappointment by February 28 at the latest," he said. "Otherwise I am not available for a reappointment."

A brief, one-paragraph statement from Porsche said the meeting had been unable to reach the legally required two-thirds majority to extend Herr Bohn's contract.

Porsche's supervisory board is made up of 12 members, half representing the

capital owners, the Porsche and Piech families, and the other half the workers.

The Porsche statement added that according to German corporate law the supervisory board must decide on Herr Bohn's contract at its next meeting.

The law states that a meeting must be held within four weeks, at which a simple majority is required to extend his contract.

Shell-shocked sector: Sir Peter Holmes, chairman of Royal Dutch/Shell, which failed to lift the gloom in the oil sector by announcing a lower than expected dividend rise after a disappointing final quarter and adopting a cautious long-term view on oil prices. Net income in 1991 fell 33 per cent from £3.6 billion to £2.4 billion after a slump in the fourth quarter from £1.136 billion to £454 million. Fourth-quarter earnings were below expectations and analysts were further disappointed by the oil group's dividend increase of 4 per cent from 20.1p to 20.9p with a 12p final  
Comment, page 23.

## PEP SELECTION

Whatever their financial goals, investors may be well-advised to take advantage of the tax benefits currently afforded by a 1991/2 PEP. Mercury offers a complete PEP range, which is able to meet each investor's specific needs. It includes:

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- Six unit trusts to choose from, including Mercury UK Smaller Companies and European Growth Funds and the top-performing Mercury British Blue Chip Fund.\*
- The ability to invest the maximum permitted £9,000, now including a £3,000 Single Company PEP.
- The new Mercury Phased Investment PEP which spreads equity investment over twelve monthly instalments.

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\*First decline in sector to 1.1.92, over 3 years and since launch 5.5.87. Source: Micropal. ■ You should remember that past performance is no guide to the future. ■ The value of investments may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invest.

Comment, page 23  
Letter, page 23

# US deficit forecast to grow again

BY GEORGE SIVELL

AMERICA turned in its best trade performance for eight years in 1991 but economists believe the deficit could be the narrowest for some time as the weakening economies of Germany, Japan and Canada reduce demand for exports and the domestic recovery attracts imports.

The 1991 trade deficit was \$66.2 billion, the lowest since the \$52.4 billion registered in 1983. The deficit has been shrinking since the record \$152 billion of 1987.

In December, the trend was reversed by a \$5.94 billion deficit, compared with \$4.17 billion in November,

while exports fell 2.2 per cent to \$36.13 billion and imports rose 2.3 per cent to \$42.07 billion, on the month. December was the second consecutive month of rising deficits.

The figures are bad news for the Bush administration, which is relying on strong export growth to pull the American economy out of the doldrums.

During 1991, imports were reduced sharply by recession and exports remained at record levels, reaching \$421.9 billion, up from \$393.6 billion in 1990.

America's deficit on Japanese trade stuck at a stubborn \$43.4 billion, up from \$41.1 billion in 1990. The imbalance, particularly on cars, lay behind President George Bush's politically embarrassing delegation to Tokyo last month.

The second-largest deficit was recorded with China, with which the imbalance rose more than 20 per cent to \$12.69 billion. In contrast, American trade with Europe ran at a surplus, up from \$4 billion to \$16 billion.

The deficits with Japan and China have brought criticism from Mr Bush's political opponents, who say the two nations have built unfair trade barriers that are blocking the sale of American goods in their countries.

However, many private economists say trade barriers reflect only a small portion of the deficit, the bigger problem being Americans' appetite for foreign goods.

The government also reported yesterday that jobless claims rose 18,000 in the first week of February as 452,000 Americans made first-time visits to unemployment offices. The rise was slightly worse than expected. Many analysts had predicted an increase of about 6,000, after two weeks of modest declines.

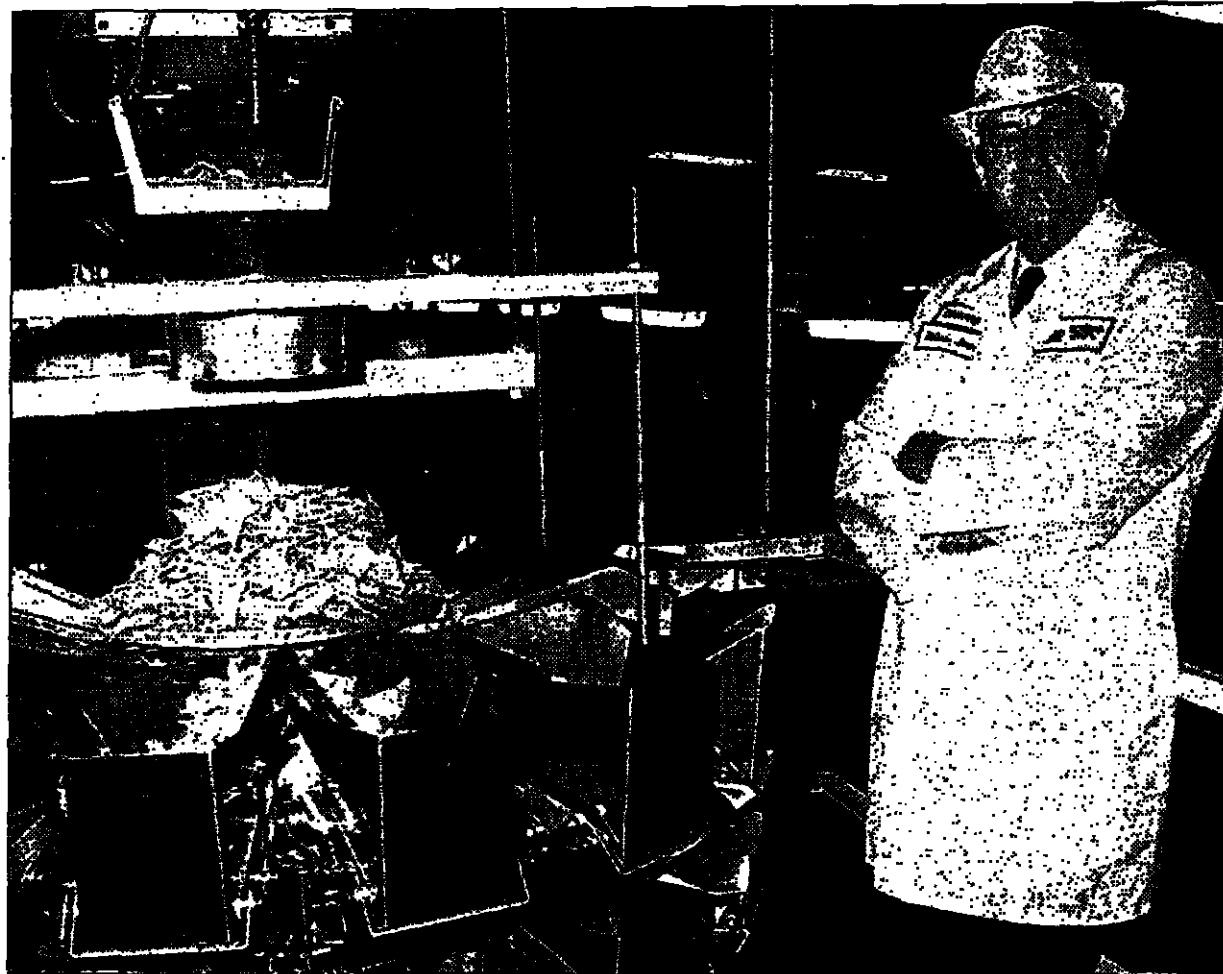
## Lautro suspends Oaklife

BY LINDSAY COOK  
MONEY EDITOR

THE Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro) has stopped the sale of policies to the public by Oaklife Assurance because of concern about its compliance procedures. This is the second time in a few months that Lautro has suspended the company, based in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, which has 20 branches and manages £6.2 million.

The life company was briefly suspended last November. The regulator became concerned about Oaklife's compliance procedures during a routine inspection.

Lautro held an extraordinary meeting on Tuesday at which it made an intervention order, instructing it to stop offering investment advice, selling new policies, either through the branches, appointed representatives or other means. The company had accepted the need for remedial action.



Crisp condition: Malcolm Jones, the chairman, at Benson's factory at Kirkham, Lancashire, yesterday

## Shortages bite at Benson

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

POTATO shortages in the middle of last year led to a fall in profits at Benson Crisps. The problems associated with the shortages cost the group £300,000.

Benson, where Malcolm Jones is chairman, says the quality of old crop potatoes last June was extremely poor, while bad weather led to an industry-wide shortage of new crop potatoes in July. Prices therefore rose, yields fell and the group lost sales.

The group has responded by changing its pattern of forward buying of potatoes this year. Pre-tax profits fell to £1 million (£1.36 million) in the year to end-November on turnover of £26.3 million (£21.9 million). Earnings were 9.8p (12.5p) a share, but the final dividend stays at 2.15p, for a total of 2.85p (2.75p).

## Throgmorton Trust makes amends and lifts dividend

BY MARTIN BARROW

THROGMORTON Trust, which shocked investors by halving its previous final dividend, repaired some of the damage yesterday by announcing a 12 per cent rise in the latest year-end payment.

The investment trust is increasing the final dividend for the period to the end of November from 1.25p, a share to 1.4p, making a total of 2.25p for the year, against 2.15p. Despite the increase, the overall payment is still short of the 3.18p dividend paid for the year to the end of November 1989.

Net asset value rose by 20 per cent from 58.5p a share to 70.2p, partly reversing the previous year's 40 per cent shortfall.

Sir Ian Stewart, a former

Treasury minister who is now chairman, said: "In a year of falling earnings and dividends for the economy as a whole, the trust has been able to increase its dividend without calling on reserves."

Sir Ian said further progress was made in disengaging from investments in trading subsidiaries to return the trust to its traditional role of investment in smaller listed companies. The shareholding in Framlington Holdings, the fund management group, was further reduced by 26 per cent to 49 per cent, raising £16.7 million. The balance has been valued at £27.9 million.

R Green Properties, a wholly owned subsidiary and the other major unlisted invest-

ment, has been revalued at £22.8 million, up from £26.3 million after the advance of additional loans during the year.

Throgmorton's gross income was £16.51 million, against £16.2 million. Net revenue slipped from £11.15 million before tax to £11.06 million and earnings were 2.63p a share, compared with 2.65p.

Sir Ian said: "The effects of the recession have yet to abate, but there is evidence of a modest revival in some sectors. Falling inflation and interest rates, and an anticipated economic upturn, should in due course assist the profitability of smaller companies and improve market sentiment towards them."

## Ward knocked by £12m writedowns

WARD Holdings, the Kent housebuilder and property group, made a pre-tax loss of £14 million in the year to October 31, compared with a profit of £3.9 million the year before. This was after writedowns of £12.2 million against the value of Ward's development land bank (nil last time). There is no final dividend (2.1p), making 0.5p (2.6p). Two of the three divisions made losses.

Housebuilding made a pre-tax and pre-exceptional loss of £3.4 million (£1 million profit). Losses in the plant hire business fell from £623,000 to £395,000. In the division that did make a positive contribution — commercial property investment and development property — pre-tax profits were £2 million, 43 per cent down. Denis Ward, the chairman, said the group's trading losses were the first in its history. He described the housebuilding market in 1991, particularly in the south-east of England, as "fraught with difficulties". The shares fell 8p to 44p.

## Colorgen in the black

COLORGEN, a London-listed manufacturer of computerised colour-matching machines based in Massachusetts, recorded its first interim profit. In the six months to December 31, the company earned pre-tax profits of \$83,000, compared with losses of \$332,000 last time. There is again no dividend. Net sales rose from \$2.38 million to \$3.93 million. John O'Brien, chairman, said trade continued to improve despite difficult conditions in the coatings industry.

## Slowdown hits SWP

RECESSION in construction hit interim profits at SWP Group, maker and installer of timber, metal and glass components. In the six months to end-December, pre-tax profits fell from £520,000 to £31,000 and earnings from 1.4p to 0.1p. The company does not pay interim dividends. SWP's metalwork businesses, which serve industrial and commercial markets, suffered most. These markets are not expected to recover in 1992. Housing association work by Purpose Built, a subsidiary, could lift overall profitability.

## Astra profit up 36%

ASTRA, a Swedish pharmaceuticals group, recorded a 36 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to Kr3.41 billion (£326 million) in 1991, after sales of the company's Losac anti-ulcer drug more than doubled to Kr3.03 billion. Sales of anti-asthma drugs were up 26 per cent, and gastrointestinal drug sales rose by 94 per cent to Kr3.22 billion. Capital expenditures, too, more than doubled, to Kr2.12 billion. The dividend was raised from Kr2.45 to Kr3.25. Total turnover was up from Kr9.42 billion to Kr12.5 billion.

## Daimler-Benz ahead

DAIMLER-BENZ, the German industrial group, says that 1991 group net profits will be higher than the previous year's DM1.8 billion. In an interim report, Daimler also said its cash flow last year was higher than 1990's DM6.71 billion. Group sales for 1991 rose to DM94.66 billion from DM85.5 billion. Strongest sales growth came from Germany, up 21.8 per cent. More than two thirds of group sales came from Mercedes and 14 per cent from AEG, the electronics subsidiary.

## INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

### Professional secretaries take note!

swissair THE TIMES \* Holiday Inn

### EUROPEAN PROFESSIONAL SECRETARY OF THE YEAR AWARDS 1992

The search is on for the UK's top secretaries and PAs with practical language skills, with a working knowledge of The Single Market and an understanding of the business and social cultural differences between EC countries.

Organised by Blenheim Exhibitions to run in conjunction with The London Secretary & Office Management Show (Barbican 24-26 March 1992), this award scheme is sponsored by The Times with the European Association of Professional Secretaries (EAPS) and The Industrial Society.

£10,000 worth of prizes to be won! The winner will receive a £4,500 two-week holiday for two to Bangkok, courtesy of Holiday Inn Worldwide with flights by Swissair, plus a complimentary secretarial development course with The Industrial Society. Five runners-up will receive two-night weekends for two at the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza Geneva with flights by Swissair.

All winners will also receive a Berlitz language course of their choice, a Vidal Sassoon haircut, a copy of *Mind Your Manners* by John Mole and clothes vouchers from Principles.

For your official entry form phone Blenheim PEL on 081-742 2828, or write to Times Competition, Blenheim PEL, 630 Chiswick High Road, London W4 5BG. Closing date: 6 March 1992. Finalists will attend an interview in London Wed 18 March. Prizes will be presented on Tues 24 March at The London Secretary & Office Management Show.

### HONG KONG RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION Chief Executive

The Hong Kong Rugby Football Union seeks an experienced manager for the newly created position of Chief Executive Officer. Reporting to the Chairman and working in conjunction with a board of Directors, the CEO will be responsible for the day to day operation of the Union. He will be responsible for the financial, administrative, medical, and other aspects of the Union. He will also be responsible for the development of the Hong Kong Rugby Football Union. Candidates should have a sound background in management with a detailed knowledge of the sport of Rugby Union, from both the playing and administrative standpoints.

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## UK firms in airport contract

An Anglo-Japanese consortium of Trafalgar House Construction, Balfour Beatty, GEC-Marconi and Marubeni has won a contract to design a master plan for a two-runway international airport at Sepang, 30 miles south of Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, and a high-speed train link to the capital. BAA is lead consultant for the study.

## Coburn Optical

Coburn Optical Industries, the Pilkington subsidiary that has been sold for \$40.25 million, was part of the eyecare business acquired from Revlon in 1987 and accounted for only a small part of the total purchase price of \$361 million. Visioncare, the American contact lens and spectacles business that comprises most of the interests acquired from Revlon, is being retained by Pilkington. This corrects a mistake that appeared in some editions of *The Times* yesterday.

## Payout raised

T&N Holdings, the 51 per cent-owned South African offshoot of T&N, reports pre-tax profits of R18.3 million (£3.8 million), against R11.6 million. The final dividend is 16.5 cents, making 24 cents (13.8 cents).

## Fairway rises

Fairway (London) lifted pre-tax profits from £1.05 million to £1.77 million last year and is paying a final dividend of 2.15p, making 3.15p (3p).

## BNFL chief gives warning on France

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU  
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

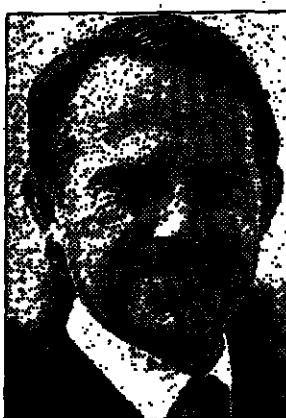
THE outgoing chairman of British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL), the state-owned processing group, has given a warning about France's growing supremacy in the European nuclear power industry and about the dangers of other countries becoming increasingly dependent on French electricity.

Sir Christopher Harding, who will retire from his post after the forthcoming general election, said yesterday that European countries have failed to follow a consistent policy on nuclear power, with six supporting nuclear energy and another six which do not. This division has left France, the only country whose support for nuclear energy has never faltered, as the strongest power in the industry.

Addressing a group of journalists, he said: "I feel personally uncomfortable on being dependent on another country as a supplier of a basic requirement. The French have now got themselves into the position where they are the powerhouse of Europe."

France has substantial overcapacity, as a result of which it is a net exporter of energy, including to Britain, which is connected to the French grid.

Of all European countries, France has been most consistent in building up a nuclear industry, a development that was helped significantly by the fact that French public opinion and France's leading political parties have consistently supported the develop-



Sir Christopher: worried

ment of a nuclear industry. France derives about 80 per cent of its energy needs from nuclear power, and the government plans to open a further seven plants this decade on top of 55 now operating.

Sir Christopher said that efforts by the European Commission to press ahead with a single free market for energy, starting from next year, constituted an important development but added that this would require a co-ordinated policy approach, which is lacking at present.

Under a recent directive from the commission, EC states will have to open their electricity and gas markets to allow large customers to buy directly anywhere in the EC. Sir Christopher also held out the possibility that international moves to limit nuclear weapons could prove a boon for the fuel reprocessing industry, in that the civil industry could contribute to the disposal of military warheads, especially in the recovery of plutonium.

## Yorkshire Chemicals tops £11m

BY MICHAEL TATE  
CITY EDITOR

YORKSHIRE Chemicals, the Leeds manufacturer of special colours and chemicals, defied the recession to lift pre-tax profits from £10.79 million to just over £11 million in 1991.

Phillip Lowe, the chairman, said he would be disappointed if there is not a further improvement in profits and earnings in the current year, even though world trading conditions remain difficult.

Sales rose 14 per cent to £92.8 million, of which only £7.2 million were in the UK. Shareholders collect a final dividend of 9.75p a share, giving them a total of 14.5p for the year, 1p more than in the previous year. There is also a one-for-one scrip issue, a move designed to improve shares marketability.

All sections are said to have performed well although the speciality products and Australian divisions were particularly good. Mr Lowe said the group ended 1991 strongly, with sales in the final quarter 30 per cent higher. The balance sheet remains healthy, with net borrowings representing less than 5 per cent of shareholders' funds.

Even so, Yorkshire's increased investment in capital and spending on acquisitions to £8.4 million over the year. In 1990, it was £2.8 million. This year it will be between £12 and £15 million. Mr Lowe said, with £10 million already sanctioned.

"Future growth will depend increasingly on investment in new plant and buildings incorporating the latest technology," he said.

## Steetley taunts 'pedestrian' Redland

BY MARTIN WALLER

STEETLEY, the building materials group facing a £620 million bid from Redland, has hit back at the bidder's "pedestrian performance" and alleged that it is over-reliant on "financial engineering".

Richard Miles, Steetley's chief executive, claims Redland depends too much on the Braas operation in Germany, of which it owns 51 per cent. Steetley estimates that Braas provided almost half Redland's profits in 1991, at a time when the German economy is heading into a decline and the German building materials market is turning down.

Several comparisons between the two companies that are unfavourable to Redland. However, Steetley is saving its main ammunition, an up-to-date estimate of asset values, until later in the bid. It will return to the onslaught as soon as the Redland bid can be cleared by the Office of Fair Trading, probably in a week's time.

The document taunts Redland over losses estimated to be as high as £50 million from an ill-fated foray into plasterboard and over substantial issues of shares. Steetley says that if the all-shares bid succeeds at the current price, Redland's issued share capital will be 72 per cent bigger than a year ago. Mr Miles claims that stripping out contributions

from Braas, Redland's operating profits fell 56 per cent over the past three years as the building materials industry entered recession. That decline is seven percentage points greater than that suffered by Steetley.

He says Redland has 30 weeks' of brick stocks at its works, more than twice the amount held by Steetley; and while Redland's investment in bricks has been heavy, its production costs remain high and its market share has fallen. "Redland's vulnerable German subsidiary simply masks the faltering performance of their other businesses," Mr Miles says. "The real Redland story is of pedestrian performance and earnings tainted by financial engineering."



## Concern on Zantac slims Glaxo shares and weakens FT-SE

BY MARTIN WALLER

SHARES in Glaxo Holdings, the pharmaceutical group that enjoys the biggest capitalisation on the London stock market, took a sharp tumble, dragging the key FT-SE 100 share index lower with them at one time, after the company revealed some, at first, disappointing sales figures for its Zantac drug.

Explosive growth from Zantac, the anti-ulcer compound, has been the main factor behind Glaxo's emergence as the world's second-biggest drug company. But Glaxo, unveiling pre-tax profits up by £86 million to £709 million in the six months to end-December, said Zantac

sales were just 6 per cent higher after allowing for currency movements, sparking a sharp fall to below £8 a share.

By the day's close, however, the price had recovered to 816p, a fall of just 10p, as analysts took the view that much of the disappointing outturn was the result of one-off factors.

The interim dividend was raised by 41 per cent, from 4.25p to 6p, but Dr Ernest Mario, Glaxo's deputy chairman and chief executive, said that much of the rise was to iron out the discrepancy between the halfway and final payments. The group would eventually aim to pay about a

third of the total at halfway, he said.

Dr Mario said lower prices in the two most important markets for Zantac, America and Italy, had held back total sales. In America the group had been forced to make discounts totalling \$60 million in the price of the drug to patients on Medicaid, the low-income medical programme, in the second half of calendar 1991. This discounting therefore flattered the comparable set of first-half figures for last year.

In Italy, further legislation had required a 2 per cent price cut from January 1, and wholesalers had therefore run down stocks by deferring purchases into the new year. Since January 1 there had been signs of an improvement in that market.

Dr Mario said that of the 18 per cent real growth in turnover across the group, almost all had come from organic growth rather than pushing up prices. "There has been considerable criticism of pharmaceutical companies, that they have been increasing their prices at a rate that isn't appropriate. That isn't the case for Glaxo."

The company was therefore not vulnerable to further enforced squeezes on prices, he said. "I don't see the US moving towards price controls — I don't think there's any real grounds for support for that."

The company's most promising new compounds are Zofran, an anti-emetic treatment projected to achieve sales of £250 million this year; Imigran, an anti-migraine drug where Glaxo claims to be as much as five years ahead of the competition, and Serevent, used to treat asthma. The latter has seen delays in gaining medical bodies' approval and Dr Mario said he thought clearance might come from America in 12 to 24 months' time.

Tempus, page 22  
Stock Market, page 22

## Call to phase out Ok Tedi mining

FROM REUTERS IN AMSTERDAM

WASTE from the giant Ok Tedi gold and copper mine in the highlands of Papua New Guinea is a major threat to the South Pacific nation's environment, the Amsterdam-based International Water Tribunal (IWT) has ruled.

If no way can be found to safely store the waste, its operations should be phased out, the jury of the unofficial environmental watchdog body said on Wednesday night.

Corporate shareholders of Ok Tedi Mining Ltd (OTML) are Australia's Broken Hill Pty and Amoco Minerals with 30 per cent each, while Germany's Degussa and Metallgesellschaft have 7.5 per cent each. The government of Papua New Guinea holds 20 per cent and the German government 5 per cent.

In 1990, the mine, one of the world's largest, produced 170,210 tonnes of copper and 443,776 ounces of gold. Tens of thousands of tonnes

of mine waste dumped daily in the Ok Tedi River have disrupted the river's ecosystem, causing flooding and hindering subsistence fishing, the watchdog said.

"The foreign shareholders... should ensure that the company fulfils standards for environmental protection comparable to the ones that are enforced in their home countries," it said.

The case was brought to the tribunal by the Wau Ecology Institute of Papua New Guinea.

OTML declined to participate in the tribunal, which receives financial backing from the European Community and several European governments, but whose findings are not legally binding.

The company rejected similar criticism levelled against it by a German parliamentary delegation last year. Environmentalists say the waste also threatens Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

Tempus, page 22  
Stock Market, page 22

## ICL draws closer to Fujitsu

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU  
EUROPEAN BUSINESS  
CORRESPONDENT

ICL, the British computer company, is to merge some of its operations in Asia and America with Fujitsu of Japan, which owns 80 per cent of ICL's shares. The decision is part of the growing integration between the two companies since Fujitsu took control in 1990.

The deal encompasses operations with sales worth about \$700 million. In North America, the companies will form a new group, Fujitsu-ICL Systems, which will be under ICL's management control. In Australasia, a new company is to be formed under Fujitsu's management control, which will include ICL's operation in the region.

There is also limited integration of the companies' European operations, with the creation of Fujitsu Systems Business, to be run by ICL management, with the aim of marketing two Fujitsu product ranges. It will be a wholly owned subsidiary of ICL.

A spokesman for ICL said yesterday that the moves would result in some redundancies, but the company did not expect large-scale job losses.

## Kvaerner to shed 400 jobs at Govan

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE loss of almost 1,000 more jobs across British industry was confirmed yesterday.

Kvaerner, the Norwegian shipbuilding group, said it planned to shed 400 temporary staff from its 2,000 strong workforce at the Kvaerner Govan shipyard on Clydeside this year.

Also near Glasgow, the Hoover company announced 162 redundancies at its Cambuslang vacuum cleaner plant, blaming the "increasingly difficult climate".

The impact of the recession on the service sector was driven home by job losses at insurance companies. Bifu, the finance trade union, said 200 jobs were to go at the



Dragebo: won order

Royal Liver insurance company. Half would be at the Liverpool head office.

Norwich Union is also to shed 200 staff with the closure of its network of 66 small offices across Britain.

The reduction in the number of temporary workers at Govan comes after another year of losses at the yard. A spokesman for Kvaerner said Govan was expected to break even this year, but efficiency gains were expected to lead to the cut in the workforce.

In December, Steinar Dragebo, the yard's managing director, succeeded, against tough competition, in winning a £200 million order for four chemical tankers that will keep the yard busy until 1994.

Reduced losses at Govan helped Kvaerner, the biggest shipbuilder in Europe and the largest Norwegian employer in Britain, to lift pre-tax profits by 5.4 per cent to Kr 1.1 billion (£97.6 million) in the year to end-December.

The group, which is listed on the London Stock Exchange, lifted revenues by 41 per cent to Nkr 18.7 billion (£1.65 billion).

The board will propose a dividend of Kr 3 (0.27p) a share, up from Kr 2.75.



Non-attender: Gustave Leven, former Perrier chairman, was missing from the board meeting

## Perrier board rejects Nestlé bid

Paris — The board of Source Perrier has rejected a takeover bid by Nestlé and Banque Indosuez, the Cie de Suez merchant bank subsidiary.

The board said that on Wednesday all but one member attending a meet-

ing voted against the Fr1,475 per share tender offer. Philippe Jaffre, managing director of Crédit Agricole, the farm bank, favoured the takeover.

Gustave Leven, the former Perrier chairman who was replaced by Jacques Vincent

in the middle of 1990, did not attend the meeting. It is not clear why M Leven failed to attend. The vote by the Perrier board was not a surprise. M Vincent has repeatedly rejected the bid.

Perrier's board had already considered the offer

on January 28, and it issued a statement the next day dismissing the bid.

The board said Perrier's intrinsic value was worth more than the Nestlé/Indosuez offer, which it said aimed to dismantle the Perrier group. (Reuters)

## Bespak to pay £33m for US company

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

BESPAK, the manufacturer of aerosol valves for asthma medication and perfume bottles, has launched its second rights issue in eight months. The group is buying Tenax Holdings, an American moulder of plastic medical, surgical and pharmaceutical components and devices, for £32.5 million.

The acquisition is being partially financed by a three-for-eight rights issue at 410p a share, which will raise £25.5 million. The issue is underwritten by Schroders and the broker is de Zoete & Bevan. The balance of the payment will come from bank borrowings. Bespak's shares rose 3p to 504p.

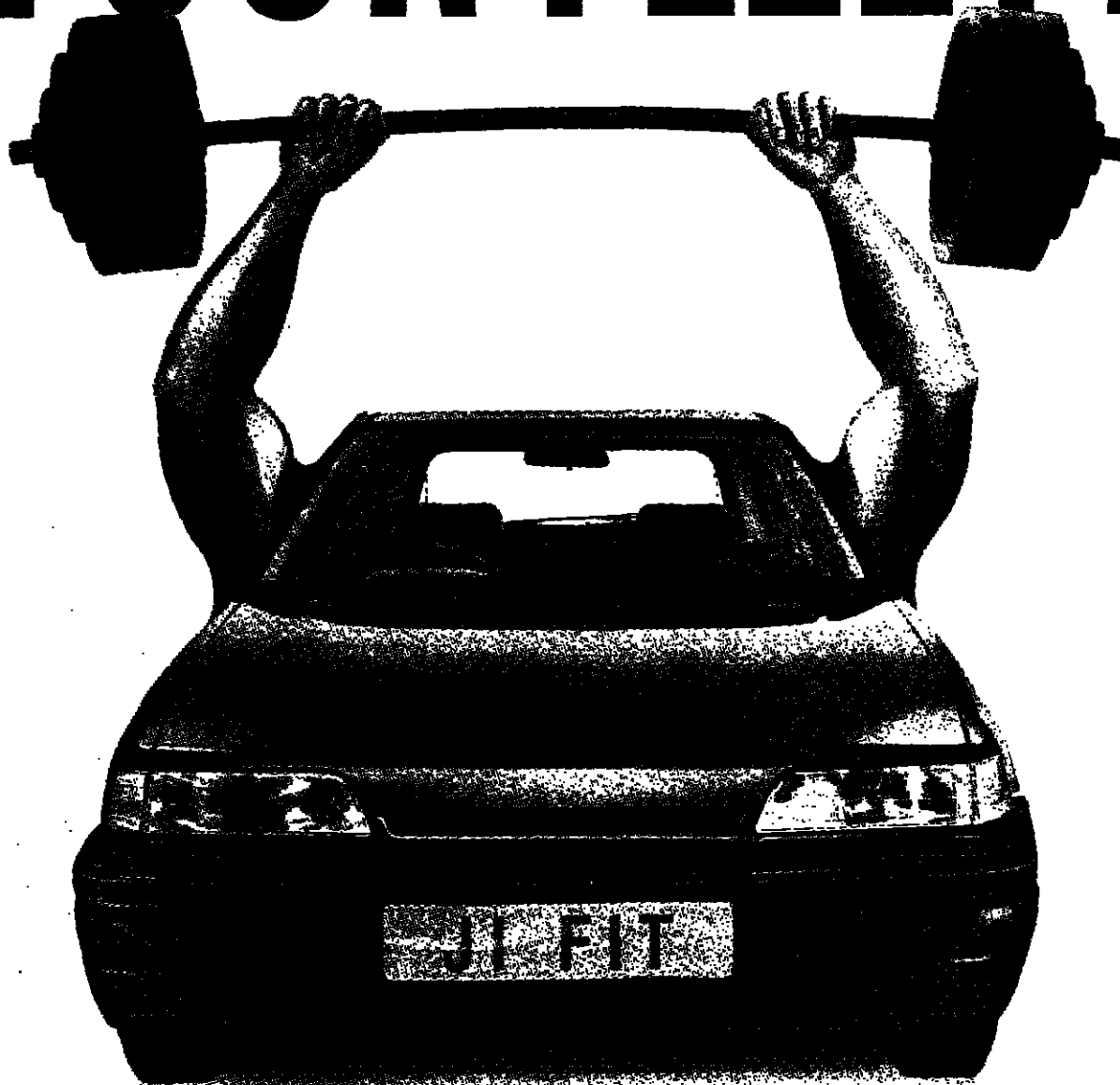
Shareholders are promised a final dividend of 5.5p, making 9p (8p). The group is forecasting pre-tax profits of not less than £6 million for the year to May 1, which is the equivalent of 23p of earnings.

The group announced a one-for-four rights issue at 315p to raise £10.9 million last June. Robert King, chairman, said: "When we did that rights issue we had no idea that this opportunity was going to occur. If we had, we would have postponed that issue. Tenax is an outstanding opportunity for us. It's a beautiful fit and the majority of our institutional shareholders are very happy about it."

The deal will extend the group's customer base.

Tempus, page 22

# HOW FIT IS YOUR FLEET?



## Pension equality increases

BY SARA MCCONNELL

THREE-QUARTERS of company pension schemes had equalised pension ages for men and women by the end of last year, up from 53 per cent in 1990, the National Association of Pension Funds says.

It questioned 778 companies for its annual survey of occupation schemes published yesterday. Of those that have equal retirement ages for men and women, 57 per cent opted to make women work five years longer, until 65. Allowing the whole workforce to retire at 60 was favoured by only 32 per cent, while 6 per cent chose 63 as the age of equalisation and 6 per cent chose 62. The European Court ruled in the case of Barber v Guardian Royal Ex-

change in 1990 that pensions were part of pay and that there should be no discrimination between men and women. Since the judgment, companies have been moving towards an equal pension age. Others are waiting until the government has equalised state pension ages.

The association's survey also shows that nine out of ten scheme members automatically receive annual increases in their pensions, compared with 85 per cent in 1990. When the 1990 Social Security Act comes into force, all schemes will be required to increase pensions annually in line with the retail price index up to a maximum of 5 per cent a year. A further 9 per cent of pensions in payment are re-

viewed annually. The number of schemes that include members as trustees remained fairly constant, at 59 per cent, last year, but Brian MacMahon, the association's chairman, expected member representation to increase after the plundering of pension funds by the late Robert Maxwell.

He said: "There has been no increase in the past year, but the research for the survey was completed before Maxwell broke. We expect to see a shift, with a lot more schemes taking an interest in having members on the board. Maxwell will make a lot of people who were happy with having employers choose schemes start to think it is better for the members to be involved."

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## US blue chips rise on hopes of cut in rates

Steve Plag, of County NatWest, expects £1.41 billion pre-tax this year, while Robin Gilbert at James Capel is looking for £1.44 billion. The shares therefore sell on a rating of 25 times' future profits, helping to make Glaxo the biggest company by capitalisation on the stock market.



## Bespak

**SMALL** manufacturing companies overly dependent on a single customer are not the most popular businesses in the City these days, but if the customer is Glaxo and the manufacturing company is Bespak, it's a different matter. One glance at the

The money is being raised for the acquisition of Tenax Holdings Corporation. The price is £32.8 million, roughly 12 times' earnings. Currently, 40 per cent of Bspak's sales are to Glaxo.

The deal looks a sensible one for Bepak at a price which is not too high. However, at 504p, the shares are highly valued and, on a theoretical ex-rights price of 478p, they are trading on 14.9 times' next year's earnings. The company's track record is a good one and it is

## Provident Financial

JOHN van Kuffeler is still recovering from culture

The company's statement struck a more confident note than most in recent months, and the City is forecasting a healthy rise in profits this year to £41 million. The forecasts and Mr van Kuffeler's breezy presentation were enough to push the shares up 16p to 486p, placing them on a p/e ratio of nine. Provident Financial is a rock to cling to in a sector that has been severely battered in the past two years.

The day's turnover dropped to about 190 million shares, compared with 205 million shares on Wednesday. However, brokers said trading remained listless, with investors wary of poor corporate prof-

□ **Singapore** — The market closed mixed after selective bargain-hunting alternated with profit-taking in active trading, brokers said. The Straits Times industrial index ended at 1,513.27, up 2.05 points. (Reuters)

The day's turnover dropped to about 190 million shares, compared with 205 million shares on Wednesday. However, brokers said trading remained listless, with investors wary of poor corporate prof-

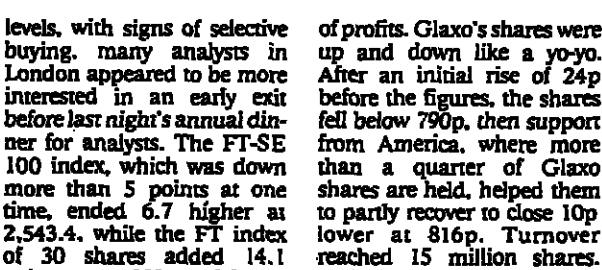
Rising shares outnumbered falling shares by five to four, with 499 higher, 394 lower and 213 unchanged. Toshiba fell Y27 to Y596, but other electricals were mixed. (Reuters)

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- The annual interest rate before deduction of basic rate income tax. Interest will be paid gross to personal account customers who have provided us with the necessary Inland Revenue declaration or registration form. Interest rates may vary.



Capital Industries Inc.



He added that the increases in British tobacco taxation in the Budget would have a "relatively small" effect on the group.

ain's biggest company, which fell despite a 14 per cent improvement in first-half profits. The drugs group released

Others in the pharmaceuticals sector weakened in sympathy. Fisons eased 1p to

again about W Canning, the electronic controls group, uncertain now is that Wardle Storeys, parent group, has been looking at 1 p to 331 p.

Shares in **Bespak**, the aerosol and plastic mouldings group, initially dropped on news of a £25.5 million cash call, at a deeply discounted 410p, to help finance a £32.8 million American acquisition. But they recovered

A Kleinwort recommendation boosted BAA, up 5p to 578p, while a variety of other brokers' recommendations helped BAT, 6p higher at 659p. Vodafone, 3½p higher at 350½p, and Unilever, 8p stronger at 955p. Grand Metropolitan rose 3½p to 954½p, before a Florida presentation.

**Steelco**, the building products group, off 6p to 382p, again urged shareholders to reject the £629 million bid from Redland, down 2p to 468p.

**Dowty Group** was again a firm market, with the shares adding 2p to 120p, on a volume of 6.9 million shares, boosted by reports of an agency cross at 117p and some new time buying.

**Greencore eased 3p to 255p.**

Capital Industries 1p	61	...	Stopped Pft 12:up	121:4	...
Exxon Preferred Capital (100)	102:4	...	<b>RIGHTS ISSUES</b>		
Fluorizing Japanese Warrants	36	...	BTP 1/0p N/P (205)	21	...
Latin Amer Inc & Ap E10:4	512	...	Bromogro Industries N/P (105)	3	...
Lloyds Steel Co's Cap Inc (100)	99	...	Clarke Foods 5p N/P (60)	69	4
Lloyds Steel Co's Div 1p (38)	37	...	Drummond N/P (39)	1	...
Lloyds Steel Co's Cap 1p (62)	60	...	Forrest 2p N/P (115)	15	...
Multihaven Warrants	10	...	Senior Engineering 10p N/P (58)	12	...
River & Merc. Time 12:up	103	...	Wembley 5p N/P (30)	3	...

<b>RISSES:</b>	<b>FALLS:</b>
Yorkshire Chem. .... 5440 (+350)	Boosey Hawkes ..... 9050 (-100)
Macro 4 ..... 4180 (+10)	Tiptonk ..... 2290 (-110)
Metal ..... 1070 (+15)	Imperial Holdings ..... 6100 (-100)
Sainsbury Group ..... 5100 (+10)	Glezer ..... 5100 (-100)
Boots ..... 4740 (+300)	Frank Corp ..... 5810 (-220)
GR Holdings ..... 5000 (+100)	Teacraft Teat ..... 3950 (-140)
SGS ..... 3870 (+20)	Waco ..... 4400 (-10)
Ventura ..... 2700 (+30)	Waste ..... 1130 (-120)
Lloyds Abbey ..... 3900 (+110)	
M&O ..... 3400 (+10)	
Carlton Comm. .... 5500 (+90)	

**Closing Prices...Page 25**

Closing Prices..Page 25

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## Strong Shell and risky BP

Shell's conservative dividend increase of 4 per cent makes BP's decision to award its own shareholders a rise of 4.5 per cent, leaving dividends uncovered by earnings, look decidedly risky. Shell will be as disappointed as its many followers with the 33 per cent decline in net income in 1991. But compared with the collapse in BP's net income from £1.68 billion to £415 million Shell's figures were packed with good news.

On a replacement cost basis, which irons out the impact of gains and losses on stockholdings, Shell's 4 per cent dividend compares favourably with BP's 14 per cent fall. Shell also boasts what is probably the strongest balance sheet in the oil sector on either side of the Atlantic. Gearing stands at just 11 per cent and even after capital expenditure of £6.5 billion, an outlay that is to be matched this year, there was a positive cash flow of £1.5 billion.

The capital spend at BP was £4.5 billion, resulting in a net cash outflow of £1.1 billion and gearing of just below 80 per cent which Bob Horton, BP's chairman, conceded was on the limit of acceptable levels. The companies differ also on their view of oil price trends this decade. BP's Horton remains convinced that oil will rise steadily towards \$25 a barrel as Opec struggles to meet the investment required to bridge the gap between supply and demand. At Shell, Sir Peter Holmes is in no doubt that Opec will find the money and that in the absence of a regional crisis in the Middle East oil will trade within a range of \$17 and \$22, rising or falling on seasonal factors.

Only time will tell who is right. Shell would be delighted if BP is proved correct: higher oil prices will have a dramatic impact on earnings. But Shell's scenario must be deeply worrying for BP, which needs an active oil market into which it can sell assets to fund its growing capital requirements. BP may soon regret its generosity to shareholders. Shell shares slipped 15p to 440p yesterday while BP gained 3p to 254p after a wretched run. The revival may prove short-lived.

## Share power

The consensus on the virtues of active individual share ownership is now so universal — even the Labour Party gives ProShare a welcome — that mom's apple pie looks controversial by comparison. Market forces offer the main note of dissent. Schemes such as PEPs are rapidly engulfed by the public's rational preference for unit trusts or other managed portfolios. The two should grow together, but it is pointless to pretend that an individual with less than, say, £5,000 of free savings should seriously think of building a portfolio of stocks. Individual holdings of less than £1,000 are uneconomic both for the company and, in terms of dealing costs, for the investor. One aim of ProShare will be to reduce the breakeven point, not least by promoting low-cost user friendly share dealing. This is not easy, as the government's disappointment over share shops has shown.

Deeper share ownership will come only when many more listed companies realise the benefits of all those tiresome small private shareholders. Companies are in the best position to provide cheap buying facilities, to offer far more privileges to shareholders and to treat their private shareholders as the best fan club they could hope for. Before this happens, companies will need to learn that private shareholders are more loyal and long-term. Building a new steady demand for shares to counter the increased supply from fickle institutions should therefore raise share prices and, let it be whispered, reduce the threat of takeover.

## Recession officially confirmed as longest and deepest since the Thirties

# Lessons for Mr Major from the slump of 60 years ago

## Forecast returns to haunt the PM

Ten days ago the prime minister lifted the pre-electoral temperature a further degree or two by agreeing that 1.25 million public sector workers would receive the pay increases awarded by their review body in full. From doctors to dentists, soldiers to sailors, Mr Major was ordering above-inflation pay rises all round.

The decision to pay these increases was taken with the prime minister all too aware of the statistical minefield that lay ahead. Unemployment rising above 2.6 million, house repossession running at 72,000 a year and, perhaps above all, yesterday's confirmation that Britain's gross domestic product last year fell by 2.5 per cent, the biggest fall since the great depression of the Thirties.

Knowing that such a fall would refocus attention on the most famous slump in history, Mr Major — a stickler when it comes to research — must have been giving the events of 60 years ago serious thought. Indeed, the public sector pay award suggests that its lessons are already being applied.

There is no doubt that in 1931 Ramsay MacDonald would have had an easier time as prime minister had his response to financial Nemesis been to grant real pay increases to public-sector workers. Instead, he ordered big pay cuts for teachers, police and the armed forces, together with a reduction in unemployment benefits.

The results might well have persuaded Mr Major not to follow a similar path. For not only was Mr MacDonald faced with riots among the unemployed, whose benefit was to be cut by two shillings to 15 shillings a week for men and 13 shillings for women. Pay cuts of up to a quarter for the armed services prompted a brief but historic mutiny by naval ratings of the Atlantic Fleet stationed at Invergordon, whose daily rate was chopped from four shillings to three shillings. A military victory may have ensured one recent election success, but mutiny? The prime minister must be hoping that pay rises of up to 7.9 per cent, not forgetting that fourth Trident submarine, have quelled any new rebellion. However, deciding what other lessons to draw from 1931 cannot be easy for Mr Major and his advisers. While there are obvious parallels — sliding output and rising unemployment (by July 1931, there were 2.7 million unemployed) — there is one vital difference. The government shouldering the blame for the country's economic woes was a Labour one.

Mr Major will be hoping that the fate of the incumbent government will not provide a further parallel with 1931. Although Mr MacDonald abandoned virtually all of his party's socialist principles, as the economic situation worsened, and in August resigned to form a coalition National Government, the mud stuck. The Labour party disowned Mr MacDonald but it could not disown the recession. At the



Tough times: a crowd protesting against unemployment clashes with police in London in 1931

October election, Labour was savaged; its number of seats fell from 288 to 52.

As the world's economies teetered towards collapse, investors lost confidence in paper currencies, including sterling. In an increasingly unsafe world (by February, 5 million were unemployed in Germany) what they wanted instead was gold, to which Winston Churchill had re-committed the British currency six years earlier.

Sir Montagu Norman — who as Governor of the Bank of England had earlier in the year cut interest rates to a 22-year low of 2.5 per cent — issued warnings that national bankruptcy was near. The decision to abandon the gold standard was taken on September 20. It prompted a 30 per cent devaluation of sterling, scenes of near-panic outside the Bank and the closure of the Stock Exchange for two days.

Just as Mr Major has had to grow accustomed to having his interest rate policy controlled by the Bundesbank, so the men at the helm in 1931 had become used to outside interference. Indeed, the pay cuts that provoked riot and mutiny were a condition of loans to the Bank of England from the Bank of France and the New York Federal Reserve.

Such overt external interference proved too much for the Labour cabinet, except for Mr MacDonald. Something had to go and Mr MacDonald decided it should be the

government. His decision to resign must have been eased by the knowledge that he would remain prime minister at the head of a coalition, with Stanley Baldwin, the Tory leader, as his No. 2.

Then, as now, economic revival was thought to depend on the consumer. In January, John Maynard Keynes broadcast an impassioned plea for the private sector to do its bit: "Oh, patriotic housewives of Britain, rally out tomorrow early into the streets and go to the wonderful sales that are everywhere advertised. You will do yourselves good, for things were never so cheap, cheap beyond your dreams. And have the added joy that you are... bringing a chance and hope to Lancashire, Yorkshire and Belfast." Provided, of course, that they bought British. Eleven months later, the Prince of Wales lent his voice to the Buy British campaign.

Britain's consumers did eventually respond to their exhortations but, just as Mr Major has discovered 60 years on, far more slowly than the government of the day desired. For those who remained in work, technological advance drove consumer demand. Houses, cars and the new world of domestic appliances created mass markets. From 1934, GDP was back on an upward and buoyant path. Mr Major will bank on history, at least in that respect, repeating itself — but quicker.

MATTHEW BOND



Norman: financial overlord

ANATOLE KALETSKY  
Economics Editor

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Rea Brothers goes poaching

REA Brothers, the merchant bank, has just poached almost the entire investment management team from English Trust, a fund management group once part of a Scandinavian bank. The team, comprising fund managers Alan Ascott, ex-Spencer Thornton and Rowe & Pitman, Kate Williams and Andrew Begbie, also ex-Rowe & Pitman, started at Rea Brothers this week, and they increase the number of fund managers employed there to 11. Ascott has been made a director of Rea Brothers Investment Management, Begbie an assistant director and Williams a senior manager. "They have brought sufficient business with them to make them marginally cash-positive from the start," Jo Welman, managing director of the investment management division, says. The bank is, he explains, targeting its services at small and medium-sized institutions, with client funds at present ranging from £50,000 to more than £20 million. "A typical client would be a local authority trust fund with £4 million or £5 million to invest," Welman says. "We think there is a niche in the market for someone to offer a personal, professional service to the type of fund in whom the larger fund managers have no interest."

### Modesty forbids

AFTER revelations about Richard Branson's early school days, chronicled by Richard Vickers, his prep school headmaster, in *Nearly a Century*, published this



"So, why aren't we selling more Zantac?"

week, it comes to light that elsewhere in the book there is a reference to another distinguished old boy of Scintille School, Surrey, Lord Palumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, was, according to Vickers: "A model of industry academically and a superb games player. He followed his time with us with an extremely successful career at Eton. He became a member of Pop and enjoyed an accolade in *The Times* for his soccer playing. Despite this, he was very humble and remains so modest you would never know he had achieved anything."

### Barker aboard

AFTER two months out of work, Elizabeth Barker, a corporate financier, aged 36, returned to the Square Mile this week, as an associate director of Panmure Gordon. Barker, known for her expertise with smaller companies — she helped float Hornby and Capita — was with CL-Laing for 15 years as a corporate finance director, until October when she was

one of half a dozen employees made redundant. "People think it must be wonderful to have two months off, but it is not. Unemployment consultants are always saying you have to work at finding a new job 40 hours a day and that is absolutely true," says Barker, who spent some of the time doing consultancy work for Elderstreet, the venture capitalist.

AN ADVERTISEMENT in the window of an electrical appliance showroom in Sherborne, Dorset, reads: "How old is your dishwasher? Beneath it someone has written: 'He'll be 52 next week'."

### Hayes on wheels

ROGER Hayes, the public relations man who turned his back on Hayes Macleod, his PR consultancy, in November, to become a vice-president of Ford Europe, responsible for all external communications and government relations, has discovered an unusual but not altogether surprising perk of the job — cars. Given the seniority of his position — he has 100 staff under his command — he has been given the use of three company cars. One, a Jaguar, is driven by his wife, Maggie Eales, ITN's foreign editor, the second, a Fiesta, has been left at their newly purchased holiday home in the Lot et Garonne region of France, while the third, a Sierra Cosworth, has been commandeered by Hayes himself, for personal daily use. "It's great," he says enthusiastically. "It's a real boy racer machine."

CAROL LEONARD

### Outhwaite settlement imperfect where fair one does not exist

From the Chairman of the Outhwaite Members' Agents' Panel

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Langton (February 14), thinks that the proposed Outhwaite settlement is unfair. At an early stage the members of the syndicate were split into two groups: those led by Mr Nuning who supported the litigation and contributed to its costs and those who did not.

In 1987, a standstill agreement was put in place to protect the interests of all the members of the syndicate. Twelve months ago, it was decided for good reasons that notice would be served on all non-litigating members of our intention to cancel this agreement. A letter advising non-litigating names was sent out with the notice in the early part of March, 1991. The non-litigating members had three months in which to make up their minds and were recommended to seek independent legal advice including being given the name of the solicitors managing the case on behalf of the 1982 Names' Association.

Therefore, from July 1, when the standstill arrangements came to an end, the equity that might have existed between the two groups of members ceased to exist. The legal settlement that was reached last week is clearly an imperfect solution to a problem where a fair one does not exist. Many years ago we would have tried to resolve problems amongst ourselves without recourse to the law.

If the Council had chosen to remove the apparent "unfairness" by paying money from Lloyd's central funds (not the central fund) there would have been an outcry, fully justified in my view, from the balance of the membership who are simply not involved directly in this case.

There exists a third small group being the directors of underwriting agency companies who were also members of the failed syndicate. In the current climate of continuing suggestions of "insider dealing" within Lloyd's, it would have been preposterous for the Council of Lloyd's to make arrangements to compensate these individuals if the funds were to be drawn from Lloyd's central funds.

I agree with Mr Langton that the situation cannot go on. The beneficiaries are the lawyers and, pleasant people as they are, the time has come to find a more effective method by which these disputes are resolved. There is a danger that our policyholders and competitors will see each successive solution as a "fudge" which last week's legal settlement certainly is not. Yours faithfully,

JOHN HEYNES,  
Chairman of the Outhwaite Members' Agents' Panel,  
40 Lime Street, EC3.

### Ever Sure loss

From Mr D. H. Evers

Sir, Your report (February 20) on the open years of account of Syndicate 384 is inaccurate so far as it relates to the 1990 and 1991 accounts where you say we "expect to announce heavy losses". At present we expect the results on each of these years to be a marginal loss.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID EVERS  
(Chairman),  
Ever Sure Underwriting Agency Limited,  
7 St Helen's Place,  
Bishopsgate, EC3.

### Losses suffered at Lloyd's and the attitude of members

From Mr Peter Lucy

Sir, I was astonished to read the statement (February 18) of Mr David Coleridge, chairman of Lloyd's of London, on the subject of dishonesty and losses.

I joined Lloyd's as an external underwriting member in 1980.

Since that time, I have never

had a year in profit. The supposed losses amount to several hundreds of thousands of pounds. Almost none relate to my years of underwriting, but to the Fifties and Sixties with totally inadequate, and in some cases, rejected, reinsurance. Whilst it may be possible to continue to deny dishonesty,

for the chairman to claim that the members, having received profits over the years, are now not prepared to fund losses, is an unacceptable generalisation.

Yours faithfully,  
C. P. H. LUCY,  
9 Bois Heros,  
1380 Lasne,  
Belgium.

### Shareholder action

From Mr J. N. Stevens

Sir, Some company managements have ridden roughshod over shareholder interests, especially privatised industries, in paying their top executives. This country needs an organisation that will press these companies into paying their executives no more than they need to, and into making performance a condition for the take up of share options, which executives are often given for nothing. In America, the United Shareholders' Association is successfully campaigning to make big business relate executive pay to performance.

The Share Ownership Movement announced on February 20 will not tackle individual companies on such issues as these, so it can only be of limited help in making management more accountable to their shareholders. The movement is now "owned" by the Stock Exchange, government and certain companies. Only a change of ownership, which may be possible in future, would make the movement more vigorous in its approach to corporate governance.

Yours faithfully,  
J. N. STEVENS,  
Half Tiles,  
Roseacre Gardens, Chilworth,  
Guildford, Surrey.



The "Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Public Limited Company

### Final dividend 1991

Notice is hereby given that a balance of the Register will be struck on Thursday, 12th March, 1992 for the preparation of warrants for a Final dividend for the year 1991 of 12.0p per 25p Ordinary Share. If approved at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 14th May, 1992 the dividend will be paid on 18th May, 1992.

For transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar, Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, West Sussex BN12 6DA, not later than 3pm on 12th March, 1992.

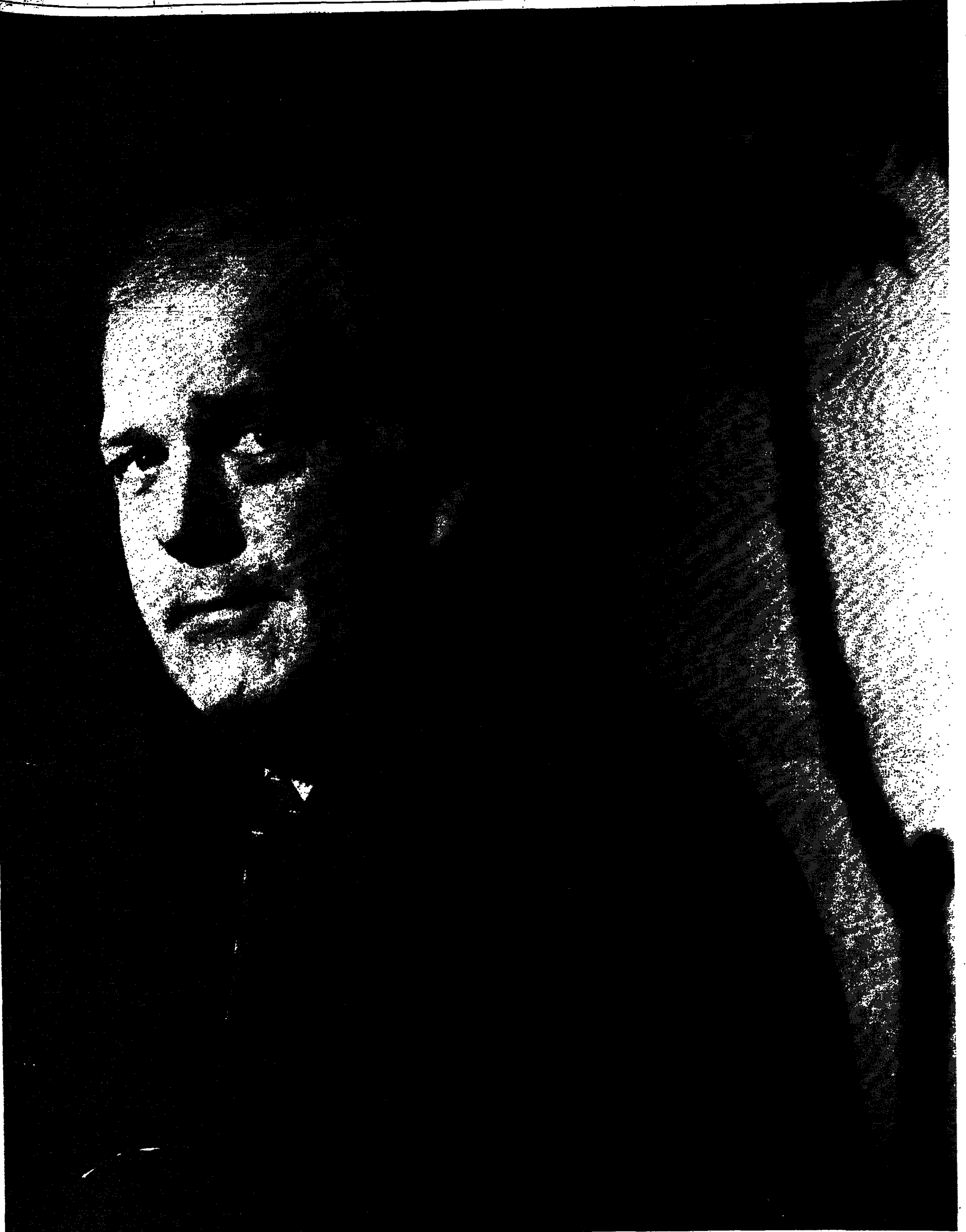
### SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER

The Coupon to be presented for the above dividend will be No. 167 which must be deposited for examination at Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Issues Section, Boisa House, 80 Cheapside, London EC2V 6EE, at least five clear days before payment is required (the required date cannot be prior to the 18th May 1992) or may be surrendered through Messieurs Lazard Frères et Cie, 121 boulevard Haussmann, 75008, Paris.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

J. A. Cunliffe  
Secretary

Shell Centre,  
London SE1 7NA  
20th February, 1992



DR. MIKE SMITH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF ARGOS.

# How I got where I am today

**Dr. Smith is the man who pioneered electronic point of sale. He now heads Britain's biggest retail operation in small electrical appliances and power tools. How did he get where he is today? He moved his company where business costs are lower, where staff skills are higher and where the offices are among the most modern in Britain. If you'd like your company to get somewhere, ring Bob Hill, Commercial Director Milton Keynes Development Corporation, on (0908) 692692.**

MILTON KEYNES



Portfolio  
PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Price	Change	Dividend
1	Barracuda	Electrical	1.12	+	0.01
2	Coventry	Transport	1.12	+	0.01
3	UFI	Transport	1.12	+	0.01
4	Haworth	Industrial	1.12	+	0.01
5	BAT	Tobacco	1.12	+	0.01
6	Uthmaniyah	Oil, Gas	1.12	+	0.01
7	Wolfe	Breweries	1.12	+	0.01
8	William Hill	Industrial	1.12	+	0.01
9	BAA	Transport	1.12	+	0.01
10	BOC	Industrial	1.12	+	0.01
11	DWT	CP	1.12	+	0.01
12	Time & Life	Food	1.12	+	0.01
13	Bowthorpe	Electrical	1.12	+	0.01
14	EMAP	Newspaper/Pub	1.12	+	0.01
15	BBA	Industrial	1.12	+	0.01
16	Thorn	Industrial	1.12	+	0.01
17	Clarke	Food	1.12	+	0.01
18	Wigan	Industrial	1.12	+	0.01
19	ORB	Electrical	1.12	+	0.01
20	ACT Group	Electrical	1.12	+	0.01
21	Drax	Electrical	1.12	+	0.01
22	Barclay	Building, Retail	1.12	+	0.01
23	Midland	Banking	1.12	+	0.01
24	Cookson	Industrial	1.12	+	0.01
25	Dunelm	Drapery, Suits	1.12	+	0.01
26	Sainsbury	Food	1.12	+	0.01
27	Abnott	Food	1.12	+	0.01
28	Monmouth	Food	1.12	+	0.01
29	Assau	Transport	1.12	+	0.01
30	Argill	Food	1.12	+	0.01
31	Scott & New	Breweries	1.12	+	0.01
32	Harland	Food	1.12	+	0.01
33	Griffith	Oil, Gas	1.12	+	0.01
34	Sage	CP	1.12	+	0.01
35	Morgan	Building, Retail	1.12	+	0.01
36	Alcon	Industrial	1.12	+	0.01
37	Scott	Food	1.12	+	0.01
38	Time	Food	1.12	+	0.01
39	Burmah	Oil, Gas	1.12	+	0.01
40	Central	Food	1.12	+	0.01
41	Cable	Food	1.12	+	0.01
42	LASMO	Oil, Gas	1.12	+	0.01
43	Mowlem	Building, Retail	1.12	+	0.01
44	El Data	Food	1.12	+	0.01

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total

Please take into account any minor signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily share for the weekly dividend of £4.00 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

## Shares and gilts mark time

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 10. Dealings end today. Settlement day March 2. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

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# Clones chip away at prices

Customers are the winners in the fierce competition for the personal computer market, Matthew May says

IBM lopped a third off the price of one of its portable computers in the United States last week as it joined in yet another round of what is fast becoming an interminable price war among the manufacturers of personal computers desperate to maintain market share at any cost.

The only surprise is that it was no surprise, following price cuts earlier this month by other large companies, such as Apple, Dell, NEC and Zenith, that have been echoed in Britain.

Gripped by recession, no sooner do the big names cut prices than the lesser known but cheaper producers of clone computers reduce their prices again.

The cost is considerable, however. What has made the battle so bitter is that with new and better models being developed every few months computers have such a short shelf-life that companies cannot afford to have warehouses full of fast-ageing stock.

Hence the spectacular price cutting of the past year, which has resulted in several brands of well known computers being put on sale for less than they cost to produce or with minute profit margins.

These bad — some would say appalling — conditions for many manufacturers are good news for customers able to choose from a huge variety of underpriced equipment.

The only complaint comes from customers, who, having made their purchases, discover that if they had waited a few weeks they would have saved a few hundred pounds more.

The battle has spilled over to computer dealers, who complain of shoddy treatment from some manufacturers and suppliers who see that one way to bring down prices to customers is to squeeze dealers' profit margins.

Those who once had profit margins of 30 per cent and more argue they are now lucky to get 15 per cent and, like dealers selling new cars, are increasingly faced with customers who expect large discounts before they even start talking.

Buyers are getting even cheaper prices by turning to mail order, or



Trolley good business: Jan Murray has opened Britain's first computer superstore in Croydon

buying direct from manufacturers, and since November they have been able to go to Britain's only computer superstore.

Jan Murray is the managing director of the Vision Technology Group, which runs five mail order companies and the superstore, PC World, in Croydon, south London, where computer equipment and software is piled high in supermarket-style aisles and sold cheaply.

Such stores may not offer much in the way of hand-holding and advice for the novice, but they have been a huge success in the US, where customers like being able to see what they are buying — some models are usually up and running — and stock levels permitting, to take it away with them.

Though PC World has been open only three months, Mr Murray announced this week that he is planning to open a second store near

Brent Cross, north London, by the middle of the year.

Price reductions have been endemic in the personal computer industry since its inception but in the 1980s they were largely the result of technological developments that were fast reducing production costs or because a particular model had been superseded by a better and faster version.

Now there is no such luxury. Price cuts are often made on current models and for no better reason than that competitors have cut their prices and others must follow suit.

"Manufacturers are cutting prices like mad and some are asking me how much I have to reduce prices to sell," Mr Murray says. "It is not a valid argument any more that the price may be below what it costs to produce the products. In another six months they will have to sell them for even less."

Amstrad's announcement last week of its first ever loss and a 40 per cent fall in turnover for the six months to December was a clear sign that the market it had once created for cheap computers was too full of competitors.

Companies that were once dismissive of Amstrad for selling too cheaply to provide quality or service are now selling at those same price levels.

"It is clear that some companies will pull out, some will go bust, while others will try to sell direct to customers to cut out the profit of the middleman," Mr Murray says.

Even IBM, long noted for charging a premium for its blue-chip name, is looking at selling cheap personal computers.

Despite the problems, Mr Murray does not believe that having

warehouses full of unsold goods will prevent manufacturers making the same mistake again.

"For some of these manufacturers the only way they can produce at anything like competitive prices is to carry on running at full capacity, so a lot are still churning them out, despite having to sell at a loss, in the hope that the situation will improve," he says.

One result, for example, is that the price of what is now the most popular power level of personal computer, known as the 386 because of the type of computer chip it uses, has halved within the past year. Basic models are available from £700. Sold with large capacity hard discs and the increasingly popular colour screens, the 386 has become the Model T of the computer world.

Seven out of ten personal computers sold are 386s. This success is helped by the fact it is the cheapest level of computer required to run the popular Windows software, which provides personal computers with the same graphics and diagrams on the screen that once made Apple computers so popular. Even computers using the relatively new and more powerful 486 chips can be picked up for about £1,300.

Should customers wait for even cheaper computers to become available?

"I think there will be further price cuts before spring and until real demand comes back into the market, perhaps in the second half of this year," says Chris Fell, an analyst for research firm Dataquest, which predicts that although the number of units sold in Europe will be 7 per cent up this year, overall revenues will drop by 12 per cent.

There is some extra demand at the moment from organisations wanting to use up their budgets before the end of their financial year and manufacturers are cutting prices to try to take advantage of this," he says.

Mr Murray agrees: "Personal computers may well get even cheaper. Even though there must be a bottom line, what we are seeing is the compression between the prices of different power levels of computer as it really costs only a few pounds more to produce a more powerful personal computer such as the 386."

What will pull the market round? According to Dr Jonathan Drazin, of Dataquest, it will not be personal computers as we know them at all.

"The videophone market will become the major driver for the electronics industry worldwide and will pull the personal computer industry out of its present decline," he says.



High-flying hardware: Ian Hughes at Heathrow

## Making waves with a radio

A portable computer linked to a cellphone can cut out the legwork

A new breed of portable computer uses the cellular telephone and radio data networks to link people to an office mainframe even if they are on the move or away from a telephone.

Next month IBM starts making a terminal with a built-in cellphone at its factory in Greenock, near Glasgow.

The terminal, called PC Radio, looks like an ordinary portable computer, with the usual fold-up screen and keyboard. The big difference is behind the screen, where a cellular phone and its antenna are concealed. A user can also plug in a handset and operate it as an ordinary telephone.

PC Radio has a built-in modem, which translates the computer's digital data into analogue waveforms suitable for the telephone, and is adapted to cope with the noise and occasional short breaks in transmission that must be expected on the move.

It tolerates breaks of up to a quarter of a second, which would cause most modems operating on the telephone system to hang up. This means it keeps contact during the handover period when the telephone moves from one radio transmitter to the next.

The speed of communication is not high, at a maximum of 2,400 bits a second, and reception quality will always be best when the terminal is standing still.

The familiar cellular network can conveniently link portable computers to base but it was designed for voice communication and computers are not at their best with it. The future may lie with the mobile radio networks designed for data, now being installed throughout the country by companies such as Hutchison Telecom, RAM, Cognito and Motorola.

These systems, known as public access mobile data

networks, are totally digital and offer far higher speeds than cellular systems — up to 9,600 bits a second. They may be much cheaper, because although a telephone has to be connected end-to-end for the whole of a conversation, in the radio network data can be chopped up into small packets, addressed and sent down the link along with the data from all the other users.

One innovative user of the new networks is British Airways, whose subsidiary, Speedwing Technologies, has developed a portable computer terminal to help to get aircraft off on time.

The £3,000 terminal consists of a standard laptop, a radio modem and a rather large battery, all in a briefcase. The radio modem connects to a gateway on BA's computer network at Heathrow.

"The trouble with Heathrow is that there are so many aircraft landing there. There is nowhere to park except miles out on the tarmac," says Ian Hughes, a consultant with Speedwing.

So if baggage or catering supplies fail to turn up, or information on passengers is needed, there is a long delay as somebody drives to the nearest building that has a computer terminal and consults the mainframe.

The mass market for radio personal computers will be with sales forces and service engineers. Insurance salesmen already use laptop computers, but with an instant connection to base they will be able to send a customer's details back and get in return a policy that can be printed out, given to the client and signed.

Executives on the move might also be attracted to the idea of a computer, cellular radio and possibly even a fax all in one portable box.

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## IBM follows the parallel track

A NEW way of making supercomputers by linking together hundreds or even thousands of computer chips already in use in desktop workstations has been endorsed by IBM, the world's largest computer company.

The company, which has so far steered clear of producing these ultra-fast machines, announced last week that it will set up a laboratory in Kingston, New York, dedicated to developing quickly a range of computers that use a technique known as massively parallel computing.

Unlike traditional supercomputers, which use one or at most a handful of custom-designed chips, parallel processing ties together huge numbers of processors that work simultaneously. Complex mathematical problems are reduced to countless tiny operations, each worked on by one processor and then recombined to produce the answer.

The high speeds produced by this technique are largely for specialised scientific use, such as long-range weather forecasting. More commercial applications are expected soon.

IBM engineers have been researching parallelism for a decade and the company's research into reduced instruction set computing, which simplifies chips and allows them to run much faster, may give it an edge in this type of supercomputing.

A new kind of supercomputing is on the horizon



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# Tunnel traffic run by machine

When the Channel tunnel opens everybody concerned will hope the microchips and circuit boards rather than the political and financial wrangles take centre stage. Almost every inch of the project, from the train lavatories to the signs directing traffic to the shuttles, are under computer control.

"Without them," says Dr Peter Campbell Smith, the project manager at Logica, the computer software company, "it would not be possible to get anywhere near the safety requirements."

The use of information technology will start on the M25, many miles from the Folkestone terminal. Road sensors monitoring traffic flows on the M25 will relay the information into a special control centre. The plan is to extend the sensors down the M20, the main artery feeding the tunnel, and to link both motorways' sensors into traffic management computers, which Logica is installing at the British terminal.

With knowledge of the number of lorries, cars, coaches and motorcycles approaching the terminal, Eurotunnel, the operating company, should be able to schedule

**Nick Nuttall describes the electronics that will control the Channel link**

the shuttles to meet demand. In addition, the traffic management computers will send information on the length of queues, delays or tunnel shutdowns to the motorway control stations. Staff there will be able to convey the information to road-users through a new generation of traffic signs.

At Folkestone's embarkation area the traffic management computers will help to direct vehicles in an orderly way through toll booths, French and British checkpoints and, if it still exists, a duty-free area.

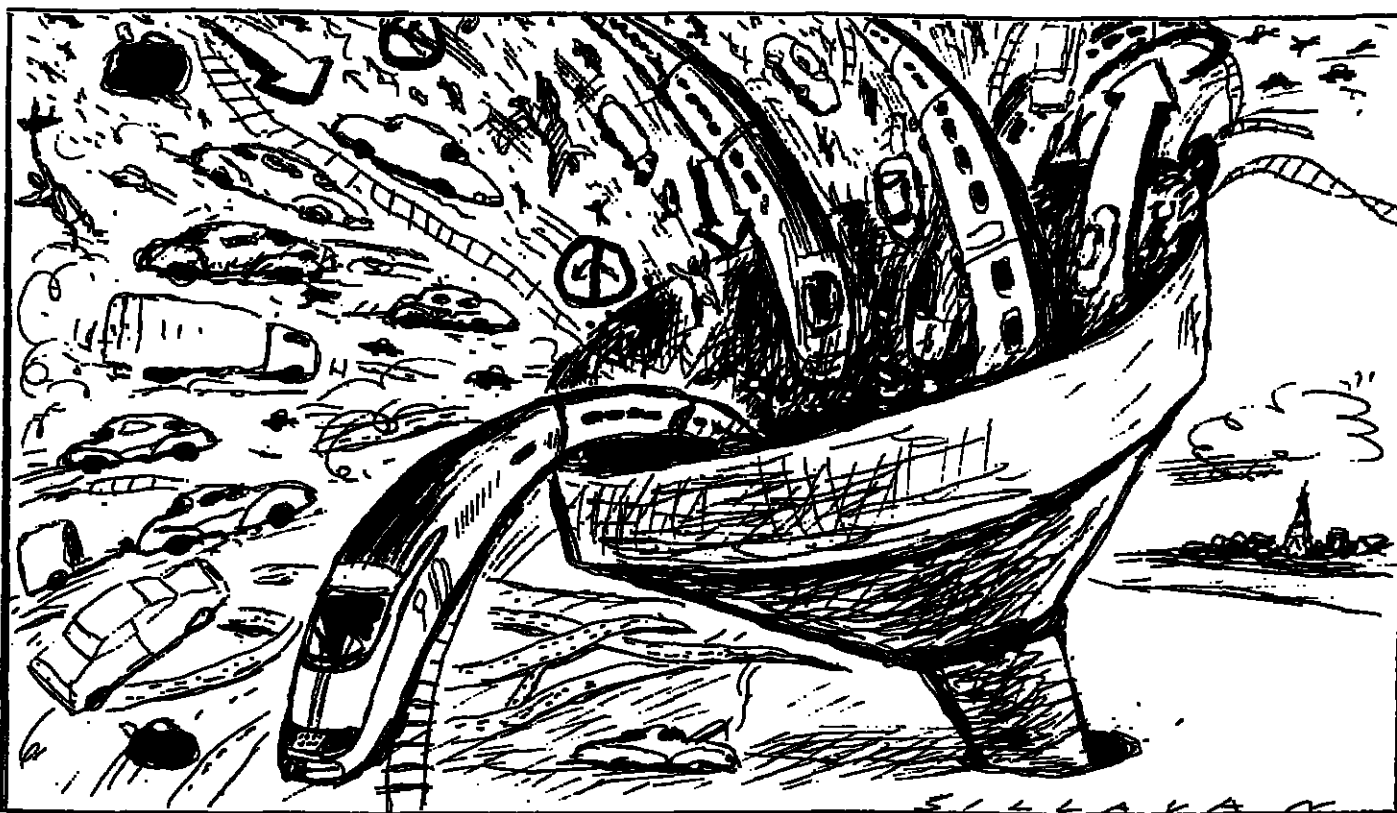
Computer-controlled barriers, traffic lights and signs displaying images or words in French and English are planned. They will help to sort vehicles into about nine lanes or reservoirs, each fitting exactly on to one deck of a

train. Vehicle heights will have to be checked because some shuttle trains will carry freight, some will be double-deckers and others single-deckers.

Two systems are being designed to ensure that these restrictions are met. A soft system will comprise a laser beam, which signals when a vehicle is too high and must go into a different lane. A more prosaic hard system will consist of a steel beam.

Dr Campbell Smith says the traffic management computer is being designed to link with the tunnel's rail computer so that the systems can exchange information on traffic waiting, shuttle timetables and the location of shuttles.

The biggest test for the traffic management computers and the network of lights, signs and barriers could be to organise traffic between the waiting lanes and the platforms, of which there will be about 20. Several shuttles might be ready to be loaded at any time and the system must ensure that these flows do not cross. Dr Campbell Smith says: "In many ways it replicates a rail management system. However, unlike a railway, where if you switched the points a train will go round a



corner, we have to allow for drivers going the wrong way."

Inside the tunnel many systems are being installed, including power supplies and telephone and radio links for maintenance crews and the emergency services.

The shuttle trains, running on a loop system, and the TGV high-speed passenger trains, which will speed from London to Paris and Brussels, will be packed with computers, processors, sensors

and communications systems to ensure passenger comfort, register engine overhauling and check that doors are closed. The computers will connect with trackside signalling and safety systems, which will take over braking in emergencies.

Train drivers will get signalling information inside the cab, which they would not receive from traditional trackside systems, says Paul Robbins, Eurotunnel's signalling project manager.

Computers are also being installed to help the trains, which will be around 400 metres long, to run on the different kinds of power supplies operating in Britain, the tunnel, France and Belgium.

Systems are being designed to raise the pantographs, which connect trains to the overhead wires, while retracting the shoes that work on Britain's so-called third rail track. Unless the shoes are retracted the trains could smash

into French and Belgian platforms. Inside the tunnel the air is likely to be heavy with humidity and corrosive chlorine particles.

Peter Sizer, the manager of the information development system at GEC-Alsthom in Manchester, the Anglo-French company leading the TGV building consortium, says temperatures outside could rise to 40C. Consequently, coaches are being fitted with computer-controlled air-conditioning.

## Slimming Olivetti

THE Italian Olivetti group and its unions have signed a three-year restructuring agreement, under which 1,500 jobs will go, some staff will be retrained to work in government agencies, and establishments in Crema, near Milan, will be phased out. The cuts are part of a plan to help Olivetti survive the depression among computer manufacturers and possibly bring it into profit this year. This month Olivetti announced a preliminary 1991 loss of at least £133 million.

Carlo de Benedetti, the chairman, recently pledged that the group would break even or make a small profit this year and he said he had no interest in alliances with foreign partners.

## CD learning

HIGH prices for the type of compact disc that can store millions of words of information as well as graphics and pictures in computer format have limited most of the market to business use. However, the price of CD-ROM readers, as they are known, which play the discs and can be linked to any personal computer, are falling. The latest offer comes from Cumana, of Guildford, Surrey, which is selling them for £299 in the hope of boosting the demand for educational uses.

## Sound work

SONY is developing a digital sound format for films that will bring compact disc quality sound to cinemas. Although film sound tracks have been improved in recent years with stereo and surround sound, the optically based technology dates back to the 1920s. The company says it is working with its Sony Pictures Entertainment

unit, which includes Columbia Pictures, to develop a digital alternative to this analogue-based recording technology. Digital sound is recorded in distortion-free computer language, unlike analogue, which can introduce hissing and other distortions. Sony promises to give details later this year.



## Scramble time

THE BBC will show scrambled television programmes for business from May. The Executive Business Club will be a weekly hour of management training and business information. Subscribers will need a decoder and a smartcard that will unscramble the signal and switch a video recorder on and off at the start and end. Programmes will be transmitted at 1am, preceded by an unscrambled preview next Wednesday. Subscription, from 1990 a year to £5,000, will depend on the number of employees.

## Market aids

A PROGRAM to help businesses with the single European market has been announced by the National Westminster Bank. The program, which runs on most personal computers and covers more than 1,000 European Community directives, produces a profile of a user's business from the answers to a series of questions and gives proposals and advice on strategy or operations in the single market.

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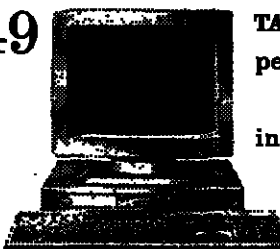
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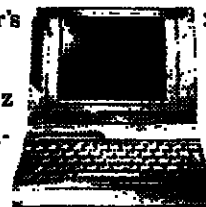
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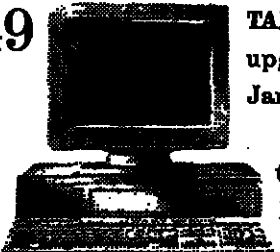
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The Times guide to the cricket World Cup

# England can have the final word

FIVE weeks today, the trunks, bags and general paraphernalia of a three-month sporting tour will be loaded onto a jumbo jet bound for London. Among the baggage may well be tangible confirmation that England are the best limited-overs side in the game, the cricket World Cup.

Such a statement would rightly have been regarded as somewhat insane a year ago as England retreated shame-faced from a shambolic Australasian tour. But 12 months have wrought such change that it can now be said more in expectation than hope.

All those, Ian Botham included, who availed themselves of the bookmakers' initial offer of 8-1 against England, can congratulate themselves... at least for a few more hours.

Tonight, cricket's greatest show on turf, or whatever the Australian marketing men have chosen to label it this time, is launched in earnest. Then, of course, one-day cricket being what it is, the weeks and months of predictions and prognostications can be consigned to the dustbin by just a few moments of neglect or indiscretion.

But, while immunity from chaos is granted to neither the best nor the worst in the limited-overs game, it is fair to assume that England and Australia, through playing it longer and more often than the rest, can cope better with the crux of this sort of cricket, the mental pressures in tight situations.

That is why I believe this competition may not be quite such a close-run thing as many of those involved are forecasting, and why the final can be a repeat of the 1987 World Cup, only this time with a different result.

The colour and atmosphere of the last World Cup came from its diverse venues on the subcontinent. This time, it will come from good, old-fashioned Australian hype.

It has been building up slowly, not least due to the volume of cricket already played here this winter. But rest assured, once the holders have won tonight's opening match in Auckland — and any other result will demand a stewards' enquiry — we will be treated to the brand of jingoistic fervour which has been a firm favourite here since Kerry Packer lit his first firecrackers in complacent committee rooms 15 years ago.

Packer's influence, though no longer personal, remains ubiquitous. He could even take the credit for some of the "firsts" in this World Cup. After all, night cricket, coloured clothing, white balls and black sightcreens were originally his ideas, though even he never sent out his teams quite so gaudily multi-coloured as some will be here.

It was Packer, too, who scorned the traditions of tele-



**White balls and South Africa**  
top the bill at the greatest  
show on turf. Alan Lee,  
Cricket Correspondent, looks  
forward to the World Cup

vised cricket and sprang upon a startled but receptive public such things as pinch reports, the player comfort level, cameras at both ends, stump cameras, weeping ducks and shouting commentators. All of this is now to be unleashed on a World Cup for the first time.

Most people in England will remain unaware of this. Most people in England do not have a satellite dish and they will see next to nothing of the coming month's cricket. No World Cup should suffer this sort of identity crisis, yet the paradox is that it emanates from just the kind of deadlocked rivalry between cricket officialdom and television outlets which first mobilised Packer.

This is a jointly-hosted World Cup but, in the nature of the nations involved, the Australians have pretty much taken over. New Zealand's top brass were keen to point out, at the media launch on Wednesday, that the whole thing had originally been their concept but the claim,

expectations. With that said, do not be surprised if they win a few games.

Mike Procter, their coach, confirms that they have left behind the jittery ineptitude of their out-crick in India, and Imran Khan, the Pakistani captain, has been sufficiently impressed to suggest they could reach the last four.

The use of two white balls per innings will be of value to South Africa, who are well served for medium-paced swing bowlers. They will not be unprepared for playing under lights, as they have a domestic floodlit competition. What may scupper them is if this World Cup follows the trend of the last and grants a healthy importance to spin bowling.

England hope and believe it will, hence their inclusion of three slow bowlers in their 14. Tufnell and Hick will almost always be in their strongest XI and there will even be times when Illingworth plays as well, on which days there should at least be no worries about over-rate fines. If that is

one concern for every team, another is the rule regarding weather interference. The team batting second used to be greatly favoured in a rain-shortened game, but under the new playing conditions, whereby the winners are judged by comparing a similar number of highest-scoring overs, the first team to bat holds the advantage.

Australia will not mind this. Their game-plan is habitually to bat first and set a target and, with seven games at home, four of them under familiar floodlights, they will not be dethroned easily.

If anyone is to dislodge them, however, it should be England. Quietly, undemonstratively, this belief is shared by those who matter. Graham Gooch, the captain, speaks repetitively but festively of having played in two losing finals and wanting to make his last World Cup the one he remembers best. Micky Stewart, the team manager, agrees that his present squad is better prepared and better equipped than any previous England Cup side.

Let it always be remembered that it is only a limited-overs tournament and that the winners are world champions in the condensed form of the game only.

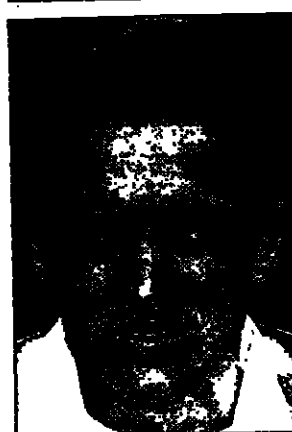
Let it also be admitted that, if Gooch is lifting the World Cup on March 25, the country will conveniently, triumphantly and quite justifiably forget.

Even a year ago, the prospect was unthinkable but the pace of reacceptance has been staggering. My instincts opposed their presence here if this was to be their grand return, but now that emotions have been spent and history made with a visit to India, South Africa can play the tournament without quite such encumbrances or false



Driving force: Gooch wants to make his last World Cup one to remember

## ALAN LEE RECOMMENDS SIX PLAYERS TO WATCH



**Allan Donald**  
(South Africa)

In the absence of Ian Bishop and Waqar Younis, Donald will be the fastest bowler in the competition and the main reason for suspecting South Africa will fare better than most people expect.

Aged 25, from Orange Free State, Donald took 83 first-class wickets for Warwickshire last year. Fair-haired and lithe, with a smoothly accelerating approach, he has a devilish yorker, as the Indians discovered when South Africa made their visit last November.

There was any number of reasons for Donald and teammates to perform below their best in India, emotion and unfamiliarity high among them. Yet Donald, furiously fast and commendably straight, took five for 29 in Calcutta. If his control is as good during this tournament, minimising wides and no-balls, he will rival Curtly Ambrose and Wasim Akram as the likeliest match-winning bowlers.



**Salim Malik**  
(Pakistan)

Eyebrows were raised when Essex settled on Salim as their overseas player last year but despite one attack of homesickness, he repaid their faith in style, scoring six centuries and averaging 73. Oddly, he was less successful in the one-day competitions, where his innovative style was considered best suited.

Aged 28, from Lahore, the engaging Salim cheerfully annihilated county attacks in 1991. Utterly fearless, he loves to get onto the front foot and drive, a facility that should not be denied him in this competition, especially with two of Pakistan's matches at Perth. Salim was Pakistan's leading batsman in the 1987 World Cup and doubts about the extent of Javed Miandad's fitness make him still more crucial to their prospects this time. His leg-spin bowling is a useful option and his catching, especially close to the wicket, sensational.

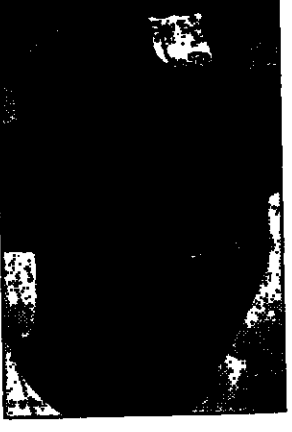


**Tom Moody**  
(Australia)

A surprise selection in Australia's 1987 squad, when aged barely 22, Moody managed only ten runs in three innings before losing his place. Fierce competition in the middle-order has also hindered his Test career but when recalled against India in Perth last month he responded with a thrilling century. Moody may not look back now.

Devotees of Worcestershire, and previously Warwickshire, do not need telling how clean a hitter Moody can be. Standing 6ft 8in and with a correspondingly long reach, he can turn good-length balls into half-volleys and his driving, both straight and through the covers, is awesome.

Batting behind Marsh, Boon, Jones and Border could limit his prospects if Australia play to potential but he is the perfect floating destroyer in one-day cricket and is also likely to take on the bowling role of the omitted O'Donnell.



**Richie Richardson**  
(West Indies)

The greatest concern for the 30-year-old Antiguan is assuring the leadership mantle of his mentor, Vivian Richards, and with a team precariously balanced between generations.

That is a heavy responsibility, no matter that West Indies are not expected to win the cup this time, but Richardson has the character to achieve the first goal of commanding respect. His second must be to score heavily himself, and this should be less of a problem.

A confirmed fast-wicket player, which explains why he struggled in England for so long, Richardson will benefit from the West Indies schedule. They play six matches in Australia, where Richardson's record is intimidatingly good, and another on the quickest of New Zealand's surfaces, Christchurch. He finished the last World Cup with 93 against England and 110 against Pakistan and can maintain that form.



**Graeme Hick**  
(England)

The enigma of Hick is plainly frustrating the England management. A destroyer of all bowling below Test level, he has played eight Test matches without a half-century, his defensive weaknesses on the back foot are thoroughly exposed and there are many willing to dismiss him.

His talents as an all-round cricketer, however, are undeniably impressive. Formidably fit, he is, with Chris Lewis, the best and most versatile fielder in the England side and among the finest in the world. His off-spin bowling has also developed and, even with two specialist slow bowlers in the squad, England intend to use it.

In this form of cricket, where he will face relatively little short-pitched bowling, his batting can also be seen to its best advantage. Either as an opener or No. 3 he has the strokes to give England early impetus and the Cup could at last see his heady reputation fulfilled.



**Sachin Tendulkar**  
(India)

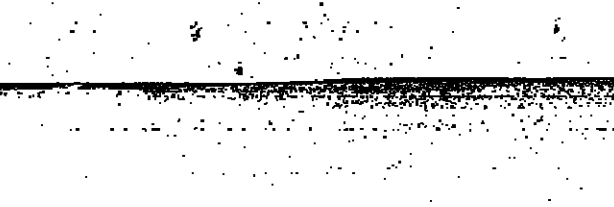
Teenage phenomena from the sub-continent are not unusual in cricket but Tendulkar's is a most unusual talent. He will be 18 when the World Cup final is staged and, if he is taking part, the Melbourne crowd is in for a treat. Mature way beyond his years, Tendulkar is prematurely being thought of as an Indian captain and, already, is not only their own best batsman but one of the best in the world. Such praise would daunt most teenagers but Tendulkar has developed an ideal temperament for his genius, only occasionally blemished by youthfully arrogant shots.

His two Test centuries against Australia this winter were in a losing cause but he was consistently successful in the one-day games, too, and not only as a batsman. His swing bowling could be effective on the slow New Zealand pitches.

O	Live TV coverage	d/n denotes day-night match	All times GMT
Feb 21 Auckland O	Australia v New Zealand	(22.30)	
Feb 22 Perth O	England v India	(d/n, 05.30)	
New Plymouth	Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe	(21.30)	
Melbourne O	Pakistan v West Indies	(23.00)	
Feb 24 Hamilton	New Zealand v Sri Lanka	(21.30)	
Feb 26 Sydney O	Australia v South Africa	(d/n, 03.30)	
Hobart	Pakistan v Zimbabwe	(23.00)	
Feb 27 Melbourne O	England v West Indies	(d/n, 03.30)	
Mackay	India v Sri Lanka	(23.00)	
Feb 28 Auckland O	New Zealand v South Africa	(21.30)	
Brisbane	West Indies v Zimbabwe	(23.00)	
Feb 29 Brisbane	Australia v India	(23.30)	
Adelaide O	England v Pakistan	(23.30)	
Mar 1 Wellington	South Africa v Sri Lanka	(21.30)	
Mar 2 Napier	New Zealand v Zimbabwe	(21.30)	
Mar 4 Sydney O	India v Pakistan	(d/n, 04.30)	
Christchurch O	South Africa v West Indies	(21.30)	
Mar 5 Sydney O	Australia v England	(d/n, 04.30)	
Mar 6 Hamilton	India v Zimbabwe	(21.30)	
Adelaide O	Australia v Sri Lanka	(23.30)	
Mar 7 Auckland O	New Zealand v West Indies	(21.30)	
Brisbane O	Pakistan v South Africa	(23.30)	
Mar 8 Ballarat	England v Sri Lanka	(23.30)	
Mar 9 Wellington O	India v West Indies	(21.30)	
Canberra	South Africa v Zimbabwe	(23.30)	
Mar 11 Perth O	Australia v Pakistan	(d/n, 06.30)	
Dunedin O	India v New Zealand	(21.30)	
Mar 12 Melbourne O	England v South Africa	(d/n, 04.30)	
Berri	Sri Lanka v West Indies	(23.30)	
Mar 13 Hobart O	Australia v Zimbabwe	(23.00)	
Mar 14 Wellington O	England v New Zealand	(22.00)	
Adelaide O	India v South Africa	(23.30)	
Mar 15 Perth	Pakistan v Sri Lanka	(01.30)	
Mar 17 Christchurch	New Zealand v Pakistan	(22.00)	
Albury O	England v Zimbabwe	(23.30)	
Mar 18 Melbourne O	Australia v West Indies	(d/n, 04.30)	

FIRST FOUR TEAMS QUALIFY FOR SEMI-FINALS						
	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts
Australia						
England						
India						
New Zealand						
Pakistan						
South Africa						
Sri Lanka						
West Indies						
Zimbabwe						

Semi-finals		Second v third	(22.00)
Mar 20 Auckland O			
First v fourth			(d/n, 04.30)
Mar 22 Sydney O			
Final			(d/n, 04.30)
Mar 25 Melbourne O			





# Efficiency likely to be the key element

BY JOHN WOODCOCK

THE omission of Vivian Richards, Courtney Walsh and Jeffrey Dujon from the West Indies side and of Jimmy Cook from South Africa's, the withdrawal from Pakistan and the absence of Mike Gatting from England had one picking an XI of missing faces who, if given a wild-card entry, might start as favourites for the World Cup.

Gordon Greenidge would open with Cook, and, with Richards, Gatting, David Gower and Dujon to follow, it would be a difficult side to contain and the best of all to watch. The fast bowlers would be Waqar, Walsh and Ian Bishop, another West Indian absentee, and there would be two off spinners, Greg Matthews and John Emburey. Matthews's face seems not to fit in Australia at the moment, in spite of all that he did to make sure Australia retained the Ashes last winter.

The side, I know, is a bit of a cheat, for Waqar and Bishop would both be here if they were fit. So, having played that little game, it is time to hope that, when battle commences tomorrow, all will be for the best and give of the best. South Africa, emerging already as a dark horse, if one may call them that, will be generously received. I don't see a Graeme Pollock or an Eddie Barlow in their ranks, but they will have the advantage of knowing more about their opponents than they will be.

India will charm us, I am sure, but in the end toughness, concentration, and stamina may make the difference. No sides will have had that drilled into them more systematically, or will be more likely to forget it, than England, Australia, and, yes, South Africa. One-day competitors tend to be won, all else being equal, not by the best and purest cricketers, nor by the most attractive, but by the most efficient.

Traicos: oldest player

World Cup matches will be 50 overs a side, with each team playing eight matches in the round-robin series. The round-robin begins tonight and ends on March 18. Victory is worth two points, with a tie or no result worth one point. The top four teams in the round-robin qualify for the semi-finals. Teams finishing level on points will be divided on the basis of run rate, where a net figure is produced by deducting from a team's own run rate that conceded by their bowlers. If a tie still exists, the result will be determined by calculating the runs made during each side's 30 most productive overs.

All round-robin matches will be played under the rules because no additional day has been allotted for the semi-final and final may be carried over to another day.

For the first 15 overs of an innings, only two fielders are permitted outside the 30-metre circle. Thereafter, four fielders, plus the bowler and wicket-keeper, must remain in the circle. White balls will be used, one at each end.

Form guide

League table of one-day international matches played in 1991 and 1992.

RESULTS 1991: Jan: World Series Cup: Australia beat England, 2-0; Australia beat New Zealand, 2-0. Feb: New Zealand beat Sri Lanka, 3-0. Feb: New Zealand beat England, 2-1. Feb-March 1991: West Indies lost to Australia, 4-1. June: England beat West Indies, 3-0. Oct: Willie Trophy (Shanghai): Pakistan won with West Indies, 1-1. Pakistan beat India, 2-1. India beat West Indies, 2-0. Nov: Pakistan lost to West Indies, 2-0 (1 test).

Dec-Jan 1992: World Series Cup: Australia beat India, 5-1; Australia beat West Indies, 2-1 (1 test); India beat Sri Lanka, 2-1 (1 test).

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Umpires

Deviser Bird has officiated in 18 World Cup matches, compared with 11 by David Constant and 10 by David Shepherd, the only umpire from England in the 1982 tournament. Bird umpired the first three finals and missed the fourth only because England were playing.

1992 UMPIRES: P J McConnell (Aus), S G Russell (Aus), S A Kettle (NZ), P D Woodhead (NZ), D R Shepherd (Eng), P D Shepherd (Eng), K E Bailey (NZ), S N Bunker (W Ind), D Robinson (Zim).

no better fielding side. For the first time in a World Cup the teams will all play each other once, and it will be disappointing if Sri Lanka, who bat so delightfully, and Zimbabwe fail to spring a surprise. In John Traicos, who will be 45 in May, Zimbabwe can claim the oldest of all the 126 players, and he is the only still-active member of the last South African side to play Test cricket, against Australia in 1969-70. All spinners will have something to learn from watching him.

If New Zealand are suffering from post-Hadlee depression, Pakistan are lost in the gloom cast by Waqar's injury. Since arriving early in Australia, so as to get accustomed to the conditions there, Pakistan have been no sort of a side, which is sad when they have so much to offer. Waqar's departure will leave the South African, Allan Donald, as the fastest bowler on view, and Imran Khan with a challenge to his almost godly supremacy. Pakistan could go either way. They will play some wonderfully gifted cricketers—they invariably do—but will they find the discipline to go with it? It will be fascinating to see.

Hampered by the rule which prevents them from bowling exceedingly short and sometimes unplayably wide, as they can in Test matches, West Indies could fail, as they did last time, to reach the semi-finals. That is a risky thing to say, for on their day they, too, will still brush sides aside; but they do seem to have chosen a strange time, just before a World Cup, to start rebuilding, and the absence of Richards is especially sad.

India will charm us, I am sure, but in the end toughness, concentration, and stamina may make the difference. No sides will have had that drilled into them more systematically, or will be more likely to forget it, than England, Australia, and, yes, South Africa. One-day competitors tend to be won, all else being equal, not by the best and purest cricketers, nor by the most attractive, but by the most efficient.

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## The Times guide to the cricket World Cup



When they won the cup in 1987 it was against the formbook: this time, the formbook rates them short-odds favourites. They have earned the position after four years of consistency but no team should ever be quoted as low as 11-8 in a one-day cricket competition. Too much can go wrong, too quickly.

Australia have an elementary but effective game-plan and stick to it rigidly. Their squad is packed with all-rounders and every player is experienced

enough at this form of the game to know his job precisely. O'Donnell is a notable omission from their selection, but none of the 14 played in 1987 and the balance looks still stronger. Moody, having broken through in Test cricket, could be outstanding here, along with the man he ousted, Mark Waugh. It will be a last World Cup for Border and no Australian is contemplating him being beaten.

Betting (Ladbrokes): 13-8.

### ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL CAREER RECORDS

Batting and fielding									
	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Ct
D C Boon (Tasmania, 31)	114	110	8	3633	122	35.61	3	21	33
A R Border (Queensland, 36, capt)	233	216	32	2940	127	31.73	3	37	105
I A Healy (Queensland, 37, wk)	17	17	0	369	97	22.05	1	7	8
M G Hughes (Victoria, 30)	24	11	5	55	13	9.33	0	0	0
D M Jones (Victoria, 30)	184	121	22	472	145	40.20	2	17	5
G R Marsh (Western Australia, 35)	112	110	8	314	59	44.85	7	32	4
C J McDermott (Queensland, 26)	60	52	11	349	37	8.51	0	1	16
T M Moody (Western Australia, 28)	23	21	3	485	89	22.85	4	2	2
B A Reid (Western Australia, 28)	3	3	0	10	8	5.00	0	0	1
M A Taylor (New South Wales, 27)	20	19	2	420	76	23.47	6	8	3
P L Taylor (New South Wales, 28)	2	2	0	17	17	21.00	0	0	0
M E Waugh (New South Wales, 28)	2	2	0	17	17	21.00	0	0	0
S R Waugh (New South Wales, 28)	120	105	30	2355	93	31.40	11	44	3
M R Whitney (New South Wales, 32)	22	8	4	15	8	3.75	0	0	10

Where given, a second line of figures denotes a player's record in the World Cup

Bowling									
	O	M	R	W	Avg	BB	SI	Econ	
D C Boon	4.4	0	41	0	—	—	—	8.73	17.00
A R Border	361	1	1070	28	38.30	3.20	4.81	4.89	4.81
M G Hughes	181	12	289	8	36.12	2.27	4.28	4.08	4.08
D M Jones	174	1	81	3	27.00	0.84	4.4	5.00	5.00
G R Marsh	1	0	0	0	—	—	—	5.00	5.00
C J McDermott	72	5	305	124	24.55	5.44	1.42	4.25	4.25
T M Moody	73	3	341	18	18.94	5.44	1.42	4.25	4.25
B A Reid	42	0	15	0	3.75	0.50	2.98	4.19	4.19
P L Taylor	518.3	32	2252	92	28.18	4.38	4.19	4.19	4.19
M E Waugh	92.3	5	414	20	20.70	4.27	4.47	4.47	4.47
S R Waugh	782.4	34	3444	118	29.35	4.38	4.42	4.42	4.42
M R Whitney	207	20	785	28	28.03	4.34	4.37	4.37	4.37

Where given, a second line of figures denotes a player's record in the World Cup

Batting and fielding									
	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Ct
I T Botham (Durham, 36)	10	10	0	104	79	10.40	0	0	0
P A J DeFreitas (Lancashire, 28)	12	12	1	105	22	15.00	0	0	0
N H Fairbrother (Lancashire, 28)	15	15	4	377	113	34.27	1	2	7
G A Gooch (Essex, 38, capt)	13	13	0	81	18	6.23	0	0	0
G A Hick (Worcestershire, 25)	6	6	1	177	89	35.40	1	1	3
R K Illingworth (Worcestershire, 25)	23	23	0	118	56	5.13	0	0	0
A J Lamb (Northamptonshire, 37)	113	109	16	3787	118	40.72	4	24	30
C C Lewis (Nottinghamshire, 24)	15	15	4	577	102	64.11	1	3	8
D R Pringle (Essex, 33)	32	32	10	369	49	27.76	0	0	0
D A Reeve (Warwickshire, 25)	4	4	2	33	31	8.25	0	0	0
G C Small (Warwickshire, 25)	47	47	8	108	18	6.54	0	0	0
R A Smith (Hampshire, 25)	34	33	4	108	128	37.79	2	7	13
A J Stewart (Surrey, 28, wk)	1	1	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0
P C R Turner (Middlesex, 25)	11	11	0	10	10	10.00	0	0	0

Where given, a second line of figures denotes a player's record in the World Cup

Bowling									
	O	M	R	W	Avg	BB	SI	Econ	
I T Botham	302.1	10	3619	124	29.18	4.45	4.01	4.01	4.01
P A J DeFreitas	596.5	12	2357	71	33.21	4.26	3.80	3.80	3.80
G A Gooch	59.1	12	288	12	23.99	3.28	4.08	4.08	4.08
G A Hick	23	2	115	1	115.00	1.42	5.00	5.00	5.00
R K Illingworth	4	0	29	0	37.20	0.53	4.83	4.83	4.83
A J Lamb	1	0	0	0	—	—	3.00	3.00	3.00
C C Lewis	143	9	638	23	27.73	4.35	4.46	4.46	4.46
D R Pringle	288.3	33	1283	30	42.78	3.21	4.44	4.44	4.44
D A Reeve	34	0	108	5	21.60	3.20	3.17	3.17	3.17
G C Small	425.0	30	1767	5	35.34	2.37	4.26	4.26	4.26
P C R Turner	101	9	385	9	42.88	3.40	3.81	3.81	3.81

Where given, a second line of figures denotes a player's record in the World Cup

Batting and fielding									
	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50	Ct
P K Anand (Railways, 23)	11	0	10	55	21	5.50	0	0	0
M Azharuddin (Hyderabad, 23, capt)	119	115	24	3063	108	32.92	5	12	50
S Badani (Gujarat, 21)	7	5	2	190	84	38.00	2	2	2
V G Kamat (Bombay, 19)	5	5	0	36	10	7.20	0	0	0
Kapil Dev (Railways, 36)	18	18	5	508	175	46.18	1	1	12
S V Manjhar (Bombay, 26)	37	35	5	1108	125	31.67	1	10	11
K S More (Bombay, 24)	6	4	3	86	42	28.00	0	0	0
M Prabhakar (Delhi, 28)	67	62	13	512	108	17.55	1	16	16
S V Ravi (Hyderabad, 23)	16	6	2	225	109	37.50	1	3	3
R J Shastri (Bombay, 26)	143	121	19	2355	109	28.87	4	17	35
K Srikanth (Tamil Nadu, 32)	38	37	3	375	123	20.58	4	27	26
J Shastri (Karnataka, 23)	15	15	0	404	77	26.93	2	6	6
S R Tendulkar (Bombay, 16)	31	30	3	894	77	29.81	1	6	6

Where given, a second line of figures denotes a player's record in the World Cup

Bowling									
	O	M	R	W	Avg	BB	SI	Econ	
M Azharuddin	90	1	469	12	39.08	3.19	5.20	5.20	5.20
S Badani	23.5	0	108	5	21.60	3.19	4.37	4.37	4.37
Kapil Dev	1529.2	159	5882	217	28.18	6.43	3.71	3.71	3.71
S V Manjhar	179	20	541	14	38.73	5.41	3.38	3.38	3.38
M Prabhakar	548	62	2175	81	26.85	4.19	3.98	3.98	3.98
S V Ravi	69	4	215	8	26.81	4.18	3.98	3.98	3.98
R J Shastri	1062.1	64	4071	128	31.82	6.15	4.18	4.18	4.18
K Srikanth	163	3	381	11	34.63	5.29	4.07	4.07	4.07
J Shastri	142	12	590	18	32.55	5.34	4.12	4.12	4.12
S R Tendulkar	67.2	2	96	8	43.33	4.34	4.44	4.44	4.44

Where given, a second line of figures denotes a player's record in the World Cup



Until 1987 it was unthinkable that West Indies would not be automatic favourites for a World Cup. Those days are gone and it says a lot for their decline, at least in overs cricket, that there are many willing to bet against them even reaching the last four.

The Richards era has ended at last and it is a loss to the competition that he is missing. Dujon and Walsh have also been dumped by the selectors, who have taken a sharp step backwards by recalling Harper and Benjamin, though both are versatile and experienced.

Betting: 6-1.

### ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL CAREER RECORDS

C Cummins	81.3	4	331	12	27.58	5-31	1	41	1	41
R A Harper	560	30	2185	56	36.72	3-34	1	41	1	41
A C Roberts	4	20	4	19	1.39	0	0	41	1	41
D L Haynes	5	0	24	0	0	0	0	41	1	41
C L Hooper	434.5	7	1896	60	31.63	4-34	1	41	1	41
	0	18	4	20	2.25	3-42	1	41	1	41
A L Lodge	4	0	18	0	0	0	0	41	1	41
M D Marshall	1152.5	118	4058	155	26.18	4-18	1	41	1	41
	70	15	57	14	1.75	2-28	1	41	1	41
B P Patterson	421.5	26	1836	14	25.18	6-29	1	41	1	41
	58	2	253	14	18.07	3-31	1	41	1	41
R B Richardson	4	0	46	0	48.00	1-4	1	41	1	41
	4	0	14	0	0	0	0	41	1	41
P V Simmons	86	2	364	8	45.50	2-30	1	41	1	41



# Bowlers adjust their tactics to stay on top

other delightful surprises, such as Zimbabwe's 13-run victory over Australia (Lillee, Thomson and all) at Trent Bridge.

reached the final, a full West Indian side was too good for them. This time it was the great Richards who sent the West Indians in another capacity crowd into ecstasy with one of his most gladiatorial displays (138 not out in 157 balls). An eclectic one-day side, chosen from all the players there have been, would surely include Richards. When England went in, needing 287 to win, and Geoff Boycott took 17 overs to reach double figures, West Indies soon had matters under control.

By the time the Duke of Edinburgh presented Clive Lloyd with the new trophy on June 21, 1975, it was not very long before 9pm. Being the longest day of the year, the night had held, and as cricketers as well as consort, the duke would have had much to talk about when he got home. A full house batted in sunshine had seen a brilliant innings (100 in 82 balls) by the West Indian captain, some miraculous fielding by Vivian Richards and Alvin Kallicharran and five Australians were run out) and 565 runs scored in the day - West Indies 291 for eight, Australia 274 all out with eight balls left.

When West Indies won again in 1979, England and Australia omitted those of their players who had thrown in their lot with Packer. West Indies, however, chose theirs, and although England

Even the first one-day international had happened purely by chance, when rain

West Indies were eclipsed as never before, and Australia, little fancied before the start but the eventual winners, had two hair-raising escapes in their first three matches. England, for their part, threw their chance away when, with Australia on the run in the final, Mike Gatting, their captain, got out attempting that foolhardiest of all strokes, the reverse sweep.

Of the sides in that final, four of England's (Gooch, Lamb, DeFreitas and Small) and seven of Australia's (Border, Boon, Jones, Marsh, McDermott, Reid and Stephen Waugh) are still in evidence, and unlikely things have happened than that they should meet again at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on March 25.



### Master's blast: Richards, so triumphant in 1979

**CUPS**

[illegible]

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FOUR YEARS FOR IT,  
WHAT'S ANOTHER  
48 HOURS?\***

**WORLD CUP CRICKET  
LIVE AND EXCLUSIVE ON SKY  
STARTS TOMORROW...**

## England vs West Indies

**on Thursday 27th February LIVE**

3.00am - 11.30am (re-run 3.00pm - 10.00pm)

## England vs Pakistan

**on Saturday 29th February LIVE**

11.15pm - 7.30am Sunday

(re-run Sunday 1st March  
9.30am - 1.00pm & 2.30pm to 6.00pm)

\*Available between February 21st and March 25th, 1992 from Colorvision, Comet, Currys, DER, Dixons, Focus, Granada, Martin Dawes, Multibroadcast, Radio Rentals, Rumbelows, Visionhire. Ask your local independent dealer or your local cable operator for availability.



\*Installation subject to relevant permissions being obtained by customer. A decoder is required to view Sky Sports via a dish satellite system. Check Equipment availability with your local participating outlet or cable operator. 48 hours commences at time of purchase and excludes non-working days. Installation within 48 hours does not refer to subscription channels. Standard installation only.

**BY KEN LAWRENCE**

THE fifth World Cup opens tonight on Sky Sports with a warning for those traditionalists who shudder at the sight of a cartoon duck waddling across the screen accompanied by a strident South African voice advising the dismissed batsman to get on his bike. "You ain't seen nothing yet," David Hill says, and he warrants a hearing.

Hill was the head of Australia's Channel 9, which orchestrated the television revolution of cricket coverage 14 years ago after Kerry Packer tried to turn the game into a circus.

Hill introduced that duck, Quackers, the multi-camera coverage with its different angles and replays, micro cameras in stumps and the chalkboard which, like a school blackboard, highlights the patterns of play and explains to viewers who do not know the difference between

**fine leg and gully which is which and who stands where. Today Hill is head of Sky Sports, who paid £2 million**

for the exclusive right to screen live 26 of the 39 matches that will decide the limited-overs world champions. He has worked in Britain since Sky opened in 1988 "because I feel that here, unlike Australia, you can influence the technology: you can have your own ideas and tell the wire benders to work on them."

**He considers his Australian revolution evolution. "Eventually all of it came to the UK," Hill says, and while future change will be slower, all sport will be vastly different in 20 years' time.**

But how different can cricket become? In this new age, coloured clothing is accepted if a little reluctantly. White balls and black sightscreens are a feature of the World Cup and for the first time also there will be microphones to

pick up the sound of ball on bat, wicket or whatever, and so-called lipstick cameras in the stumps at each end.

Sky is promoting the World Cup as war — and never will viewers have been closer to a battle zone. Its coverage is exclusive. Sky has scheduled 260 hours of World Cup broadcasts, 140 of them live. Much of that, inevitably, is in the middle of the night here or, with the day-night match-

es, starts in the early hours. The only England match not scheduled to be screened at

the moment is that against Sri Lanka on March 8, although negotiations are continuing.

like England's opening match tomorrow against India, which starts at 5.30am, with the close of the Australia-New Zealand game — England are promised priority. Many matches will be rerun in their entirety, mostly on the same day and at more socia-

ble hours. Hill has little influence over the pictures Sky will be showing: Channel 9 and TV New Zealand are

9 and a New Zealand are beaming theirs around the globe. "It will be quality viewing," Hill insists. "People tend to forget how near to *Test Match Special* Channel 9 has become and it will be a gourmet's feast of cricket, even without Viv Richards and Waqar Younis."

There is also an international panel of commentators, which every nation will receive.

This includes the experienced Richie Benaud, Tony Greig, Ian Chappell, Bill Lawry and Tony Cozier joined by new recruits in Sunil Gavaskar, Greg Chappell and Ian Smith.

Back-up in London is provided by Charles Colvile with David Lawrence, the England fast bowler injured in New Zealand this month, John Emburey, David Lloyd and Bob Willis.

## WORLD CUP RECORDS 1975-87

## MOST MATCHES

1 V A Richards (West Indies)	23
Imran Khan (Pakistan)	20
S M Gonsaver (India)	20
Javed Mahmood (Pakistan)	19
D L Haynes (West Indies)	18
Rajiv Dey (India)	18
C H Lloyd (West Indies)	17
R B Brown (Australia)	17
A M E Roberts (West Indies)	16
L R D Mendis (Sri Lanka)	16

Imran: most wickets

LEADING RUN-SCORERS	
1 V A Richards (West Indies)	1013
G A Gooch (England)	881
G A Turner (New Zealand)	803
D L Haynes (West Indies)	613
Zahner Abbas (Pakistan)	587
Javed Mahmood (Pakistan)	587
C G Greenidge (West Indies)	577
A J Lamb (England)	577
S M Gonsaver (India)	561
Rajiv Dey (India)	558

LEADING WICKET-TAKERS	
1 Imran Khan (Pakistan)	27
A M E Roberts (West Indies)	26
D L Haynes (West Indies)	24
R J Hadlee (New Zealand)	22
Madan Lal (India)	22
Javed Mahmood (West Indies)	22
Rajiv Dey (India)	21
Kapil Dev (India)	19
M H B Barry (India)	19
S M Gonsaver (West Indies)	19
A L F de Mel (Sri Lanka)	18
C McDermott (Australia)	18

LOWEST TOTALS	
46	Canada v England
85	Canada v West Indies

WIDEST MARGINS OF VICTORY	
202 runs	England beat India
181 runs	England beat East Africa
182 runs	Pakistan beat Sri Lanka
151 runs	West Indies beat Sri Lanka
101 runs	West Indies beat East Africa
101 runs	West Indies beat Zimbabwe
10 wickets	West Indies beat Sri Lanka

NARROWEST MARGINS OF VICTORY	
1 run	Australia beat India
3 runs	New Zealand beat Zimbabwe
3 runs	Australia beat New Zealand
1 wicket	England beat Sri Lanka
1 wicket	Pakistan beat West Indies

RESULTS				
	W	L	N	R
1st	West Indies	24	16	5
2nd	England	24	17	4
3rd	Australia	22	13	9
4th	India	21	12	8
5th	Pakistan	11	10	7
6th	New Zealand	20	9	11
7th	Sri Lanka	18	2	16
8th	Zimbabwe	10	1	9
9th	East Africa	3	3	3
10th	Canada	3	3	3

181	1 V A Richards
177	Kept Dev
171	New Zealand
141	D L Houghton
138	1 V A Richards
137	D L Amls
131	K W R Fletcher
129	D L Gooch
126	R B Brown
119	1 V A Richards

7-51	W W Davis
6-14	G J Gilmour
6-24	R K H Maskey
5-21	A G Hume
5-22	R J Hadlee
5-24	A L F de Mel
5-24	D R Liles
5-30	J Garner
5-39	V J Mavris
5-39	A L F de Mel

1st	182	R B McCosker and A Turner
2nd	178	D L Amls and K W R Fletcher
3rd	185	C G Greenidge and H A Gomes
4th	168	R K H Maskey and C L Hume
5th	138	V A Richards and C L King
6th	144	Imran Khan and Shafiq Mubsoob
7th	127	D L Fletcher and I P Butcher
8th	117	D L Houghton and I P Butcher
9th	120	Rajiv Dey and S M H Forman
10th	71	A M E Roberts and J Garner

380-4	West Indies vs Sri Lanka
325-6	Pakistan vs Sri Lanka
324-4	England vs India
323-9	Pakistan vs Sri Lanka
330-6	England vs Sri Lanka

HIGHEST TOTALS BATTING SECOND AND WINNING	
276-3	West Indies vs Australia
257-9	West Indies vs Pakistan

HIGHEST TOTALS BATTING SECOND AND LOSING	
289-4	Sri Lanka vs Pakistan
289-4	Sri Lanka vs England

West Indies vs Sri Lanka	Karschi
India vs Zimbabwe	Tunbridge Wells
New Zealand vs East Africa	Eggbottom
Zimbabwe vs New Zealand	Hyderabad
West Indies vs England	Lord's
England vs India	Chandigarh
England vs New Zealand	Trent Bridge
England vs Sri Lanka	Tauricon
Australia vs New Zealand	Chandigarh
West Indies vs India	The Oval

BEST BOWLING PERFORMANCES	
West Indies vs Australia	Headingley
Australia vs England	Headingley
England vs India	Trent Bridge
Australia vs Ceylon	Eggbottom
New Zealand vs Sri Lanka	1983
Sri Lanka vs New Zealand	1983
Australia vs Pakistan	1981
West Indies vs England	1979
England vs Sri Lanka	1983
Sri Lanka vs Pakistan	Headingley

HIGHEST PARTNERSHIPS FOR EACH WICKET	
Aus vs SL	The Oval
Eng vs Ind	Lord's
WI vs Zim	Worcester
WI vs Zim	Worcester
WI vs Eng	Lord's
Pak vs SL	Headingley
Eng vs NZ	Trent Bridge
Zim vs NZ	Hyderabad
Ind vs Zim	Tunbridge Wells
West Indies vs Eng	Lord's

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HIGHEST TOTALS BATTING SECOND AND LOSING	
289-4	Sri Lanka vs Pakistan
289-4	Sri Lanka vs England

Karachi	1987
Tunbridge Wells	1983
Eggbottom	1979
Hyderabad	1982
Lord's	1979
Chandigarh	1982
Trent Bridge	1979
Tauricon	1983
Chandigarh	1983
The Oval	1983

BEST BOWLING PERFORMANCES	
Headingley	1983
Headingley	1979
Trent Bridge	1982
Eggbottom	1979
1983	1983
1983	1983
1981	1981
1979	1979
1983	1983
1979	1979
1983	1983

HIGHEST PARTNERSHIPS FOR EACH WICKET	
Aus vs SL	The Oval
Eng vs Ind	Lord's
WI vs Zim	Worcester
WI vs Zim	Worcester
WI vs Eng	Lord's
Pak vs SL	Headingley
Eng vs NZ	Trent Bridge
Zim vs NZ	Hyderabad
Ind vs Zim	Tunbridge Wells
West Indies vs Eng	Lord's

HIGHEST TOTALS	
Karachi	1987
Swarases	1983
Lord's	1983
Tauricon	1983
Trent Bridge	1975

HIGHEST TOTALS BATTING SECOND AND WINNING	
Lord's	1983
Eggbottom	1979

HIGHEST TOTALS BATTING SECOND AND LOSING	
1983	1983
1983	1983
1983	1983
1983	1983
1983	1983





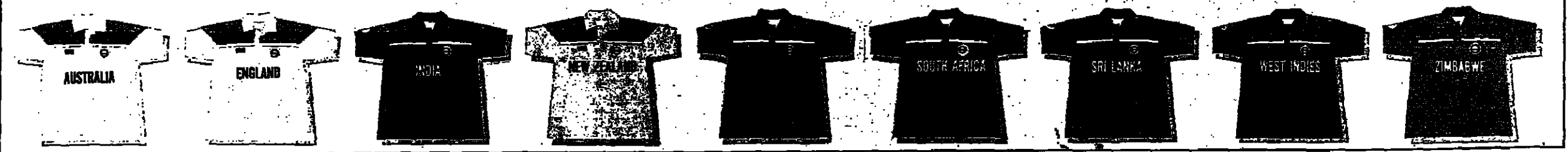












McConnell's appointment for England's match finds little favour on eve of cricket World Cup

## Spotlight is switched to umpire

FROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN PERTH

CRICKET'S World Cup, a showcase for the new, clean-cut image the game is striving to project, will come under immediate scrutiny on the first day because of an umpiring appointment which could kindly be called unfortunate.

England's floodlit match with India here tomorrow is to be umpired by Peter McConnell, the controversial Australian who, in a little over a year, has managed to provoke extreme reactions from players and officials of both countries.

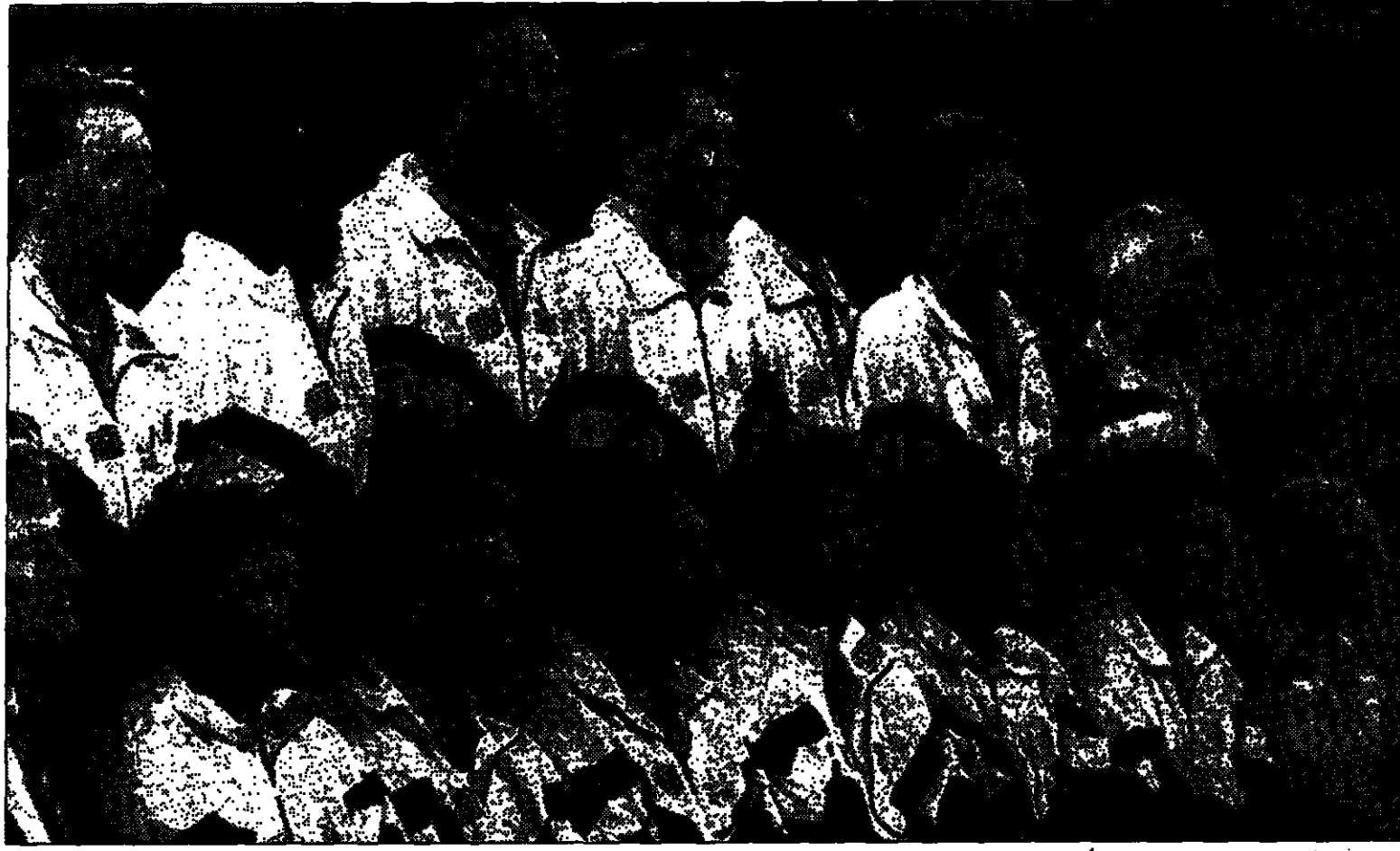
McConnell officiated in the fourth Test between Australia and India in Adelaide last month. Of ten leg-before dismissals in the match only two were given against Australia, and the Indian management later made as public and as plain a protest about umpiring as is possible to imagine.

On England's Ashes tour here a year ago, McConnell was involved in a protracted and unedifying scene with Philip Tufnell during the Melbourne Test. If Tufnell's demerit towards the umpire was unacceptably surly, McConnell's towards the player was thought by many to be needlessly arrogant.

McConnell, aged 47, is highly regarded in Australia, where he has umpired 21 Tests, but it is probably true to say that neither England nor India, and certainly not the man himself, would have chosen such an appointment to launch a World Cup in which attention will inevitably fall not only on player conduct but on umpiring control.

The preparation for this competition has been nothing if not thorough and part of Wednesday's team assembly proceedings in Sydney was given over to a briefing involving umpires, captains and managers, at which the application of the international code of conduct was discussed in detail.

Match referees will be present at all games but only in the semi-finals and final will they be independent appointments of the International Cricket Council. In the preliminary games, referees will be locals and are to be backed up by a code of conduct commissioner to deal with any umpiring problems.



Getting in the picture: the England squad poses for an official photograph yesterday in Perth, where they play India tomorrow

ent at all games but only in the semi-finals and final will they be independent appointments of the International Cricket Council. In the preliminary games, referees will be locals and are to be backed up by a code of conduct commissioner to deal with any umpiring problems.

The panel of 11 umpires, one from each visiting country and two from each of the hosts, includes England's popular David Shepherd, who has the honour of standing in the opening match in Auckland tomorrow between New Zealand and Australia.

Some of the others, however, have little or no experience at international level. By definition the Zimbabwean, Ian

Robinson, and the South African, Karl Liebenberg, have umpired no Test matches and the Sri Lankan, Julius Buitjens, has stood in only three. Dean Jones, the Australian batsman, yesterday suggested that such inexperience could be a drawback. "The whole tournament will be a challenge for the umpires," he said. "Most of them will be umpiring under pressure in Australia for the first time and they will have to adjust to different conditions pretty quickly."

Jones believes that, aside from the obvious problems of conduct, umpires should make regular inspections for illegal bats. "There is no doubt that some players are still using bats that are too wide," he said. "It's quite possible that some had no idea their bats are illegal but the best way to deal with it is for the umpires to look at the bat before each game, in private in the dressing-rooms."

"It can be done on the quiet, like the way football referees check the studs on players' boots. That way there need not be any controversial incidents which might spoil a great event."

□ Sydney: The West Indians beat New South Wales by 77 runs here yesterday in a World Cup warm-up match.

## New Zealand looking to make life difficult

Auckland: The opening shots in the fifth World Cup will be fired here tomorrow — at 10.30 GMT tonight — when New Zealand meet Australia here. With home advantage, nothing very much expected of them and a good record against Australia at Eden Park, New Zealand are looking to make it a difficult first game for their opponents.

Transferring from Australia's mostly quicker and bouncier pitches to playing New Zealand on something a good deal slower is not going to be easy for anyone, and with no reserve day set aside for when it rains, until the semi-finals, the weather could well be a factor. There is a bad forecast for Auckland today, when the Australians have arranged a last practice match against what is left of the local Sheffield Shield side. The New Zealand selectors took the best half dozen of them for their World Cup squad.

□ Sydney: The West Indians beat New South Wales by 77 runs here yesterday in a World Cup warm-up match.

him through until June 1994. Rodney Marsh and Steve Rixon, two former Test wicketkeepers, have been mentioned as possible rivals for his job; one very much better known than the other.

Simpson is reluctant to rest before Australia are universally accepted as being the best Test side, and before that can happen they will have to beat West Indies, who come to Australia for a full Test series later this year. Simpson also has a score to settle with South Africa, who badly beat his own side in South Africa in 1966-7.

In the early 1980s, soon after Greg Chappell had instructed his younger brother, Trevor, to bowl the infamous sneaky at Melbourne, to make sure New Zealand did not score the six runs they needed to win a one-day international, the Australians came to Eden Park and 39,000 people gave them the sort of reception they had asked for.

That is the ground record for cricket, though not for rugby union.

Some say it is because of the recession, others that it would be different if New Zealand had not just been heavily beaten by England, but the tickets for tomorrow have not been selling particularly well.

Although it is feared in Australia that the day-night crowds could be a nuisance, the only apparent threat to the World Cup in New Zealand comes from a Maori language group. Tino Rangatiratanga, comprising Maori teachers, students and parents who seek gains in Maori language education.

They talk of disrupting games if television New Zealand (TVNZ) cuts the Maori news programme to accommodate live coverage of the World Cup. The South Africans, meanwhile, who are more accustomed to being charged, as TVNZ has been, with "intransigence" and "racist arrogance" go peacefully on their way.

## Semi-final tumble ruins O'Reilly's hopes of a medal

FROM DAVID MILLER IN ALBERTVILLE

IN ONE of the most cut-throat sports of the Winter Olympic Games, Willie O'Reilly of Britain, the world champion of 1991 at 1,000m, crashed out of last night's semi-final on the first bend of the sixth lap. It was a frenzied race, with O'Reilly desperately trying to maintain his position, and the winner, Joon-Ho Lee of Korea, the world champion of 1990, set a new world record in one minute 31.27 seconds.

It was a desperate disappointment for O'Reilly, one of the favourites, who has devoted thousands of hours of training in preparation for this day. He had qualified for the semi-final by winning his quarter-final in the third fastest time of four races biding his time in third place until four laps from the finish when a sudden burst carried him to the front.

Yet it had been evident in the third quarter final that Mike McMillen of New Zealand was going to be a figure to handle. In a three-man battle with Ki-Hoon Kim of Korea and Mark Velzeboer of Holland, McMillen had come second to Kim who recorded the fastest quarter-final time of 1:32.67, with McMillen in two hundredths of a second behind.

For the semi-final O'Reilly was drawn with Lee, Michel Daignault of Canada, who had been fastest in the elimination races and was second in the quarter-final in which Matthew Jasper was eliminated. And McMillen.

Drawn on the outside, O'Reilly was fast off the mark into the first bend and held

the lead for three laps. Then Daignault moved ahead, with McMillen trying to come in behind him and Lee biding his time at the back. O'Reilly, trying to hold off McMillen, who came wide on the outside of the bend and was cutting back towards the inside of the short back straight, seemed to catch O'Reilly's arm. There was brief contact, and suddenly O'Reilly's right skate had lost its grip. In a dizzy spill he careered sideways into the safety padding, and out of the race.

In a furious finale, Daignault was overhauled, with Lee getting ahead of McMillen to win by 0.33 seconds in a new world record. The previous best time was 1:31.80 set in the world championships in 1990 by Tsutomu Kawasaki of Japan.

In the second semi-final, Kai-Hoon Kim of Korea and Fred Blackburn of Canada qualified for the final.

This was a dismal night for Britain who had been looking to O'Reilly to provide the first major excitement of the Games, following the slide last weekend in the bobsleigh of Mike Tait from first place to sixth on the second day. Now Britain's hopes for a medal rest with Tait's and his men in the four-man bobs today and tomorrow.

O'Reilly claimed afterwards that his arm had been pulled by McMillen, a view which was shared by Archie Marshall, the British team manager. A British request for the referee to re-view the race was rejected.

## Skiers bemoan a lack of the Olympic spirit

FROM DAVID POWELL IN MERIBEL

THE women's Alpine skiing at the Winter Olympics ended here yesterday with the three medal-winners in the slalom criticising the Albertville concept of a multi-venue Games. "You would not have known we were at the Olympics here," Petra Kronberger, who won her second gold medal, said. "The Olympic spirit only really evolved at the medal ceremony."

For the first time, the Olympics are spread over several venues — 13 in all — and, shortly before the Games opened, Juan Antonio Samaranch, the International Olympic Committee president, said that Games hosted by more than one country

might be considered in future. But Kronberger said: "In Calgary I lived in the Olympic village and I came across Katarina Witt."

"Seeing her conveyed the atmosphere of so many athletes congregating and giving their best."

Blanca Fernandez-Ochoa, who took the bronze, had waited four Olympics for her first medal, but said that she would not treasure the occasion. "Unfortunately, the memories will not be good," she said. "It was better in Lake Placid, Sarajevo and Calgary. I did not experience any atmosphere."

Kronberger's gold, page 34



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## Managers given heavy FA fines

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE managers of three first division clubs — Steve Coppell of Crystal Palace, Neil Warnock of Notts County, and Joe Kinnear of Wimbledon — were heavily fined by the Football Association yesterday for abusing referees during matches.

Coppell was fined £1,500 and warned about his future conduct after his outburst against the Hertfordshire official, Roger Wiscman, in the League match with Manchester City on January 11. Kinnear was fined the same amount for "foul and insulting" comments to Michael Bullivant in the Wimbledon v Luton Town reserve fixture on January 15 and also warned about his future conduct. Warnock was fined £1,000, with a warning to his behaviour in future, for a verbal attack on the Sheffield referee, Keith Hacken, after the Notts County v Leicester City match in the Zenith Data Systems Cup game on January 8.

The punishments follow Wednesday's disciplinary action against Michael Thompson, the Liverpool midfielder, and Les Sealey, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, for bringing the game into disrepute.

A third player was given an FA punishment yesterday: Gordon Watson, of Sheffield Wednesday, was fined £350 after being found guilty of misconduct in the match against Leeds United on January 12. Watson did not ask for a personal hearing, but Wednesday submitted evidence from a supporter that a gesture by the player was aimed at a colleague, not the crowd.

Falkirk were yesterday fined £5,000 by the Scottish League over the non-registration of the defender, Crawford Baple. The League's management committee was told that Baple was granted a new contract last summer but was not registered at either the League or the Scottish FA.

England reflect, page 35  
Barrett's decision, page 35

## League given go-ahead

BY PETER BALL

NEARLY 12 months after it was first proposed, the Premier League was given the go-ahead yesterday. It will start next season on August 15.

The protracted nature of the negotiations was reflected in a low-key announcement by Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, who, more than anyone, has been the architect and supporter of the new league. "The FA council has given the go-ahead," Kelly said. He admitted, though, that it was personally "very satisfying."

"It will mean a stronger game, a better chance for the England team, with the two extra free Saturdays for internationals next season, and an even better chance when we get down to 20 clubs," he added.

There are still some minor areas to be sorted out with the Football League, and more serious ones with the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), whose chief executive, Gordon Taylor, has insisted that it will need the players' support to succeed.

The council's decision to accept the compromises,

agreed two weeks ago with the Football League, over the outstanding issues of promotion and relegation during the transition from 22 clubs to 20, and over ground criteria to be applied to promoted clubs, means the key obstacles have been removed.

"It is marvellous news that the council has endorsed us and I'm looking forward to continuing to work with the FA to put things in place," Rick Parry, the Premier League chief executive, said. "There are issues still to be resolved with the PFA, but I



Taylor: backing needed

don't think these should be insurmountable."

Kelly's subdued air may be explained by the changes the concept has undergone since it was first proposed last April. It will begin with 22 clubs, with three up and three down, and will reduce to 20 clubs in 1995, the council having accepted the compromise of four clubs being relegated and two promoted at the end of the 1994-5 season.

That is a far cry from the immediate reduction to 18 clubs proposed in the FA blueprint. The council yesterday reiterated its desire for an 18-club league.

It is doubtful, though, if the average supporter will notice much change. The resulting redistribution of wealth from the poor to the already rich could yet prove disastrous for several of the clubs left behind, however.

Gordon McKeag, the president of the Football League, put a brave face on their prospects yesterday. "We are determined that the Football League will remain a high-profile league and a powerful force in English domestic football," he said.

## Debts deal a blow to bumps

THE traditional Cambridge University Lent bumps rowing competition, which starts on Wednesday, has been plunged into confusion by a clampdown on unlicensed boats using the river.

The privately-run Cam Conservancy, which took over the policing of part of the river last April, has announced that boats which have not been registered will be barred. As many as 12 colleges, some of which have not paid registration fees for years and are up to £2,500 in arrears, could be affected.

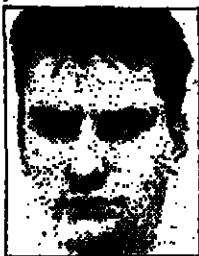
The colleges facing the embarrassment of being asked to leave the water are Jesus, St John's, Pembroke, Peterhouse, Robinson, Trinity, St Edmund's, Trinity Hall, Caius, Christ's, Clare and Darwin.

Alan Wordsworth, the organiser of the bumps, said: "After the amount of work I have put into them it will be a shame if they're disrupted."

1X



PRISONS  
Life in  
Brixton's  
notorious  
suicide wing



# LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21 1992



HOMES  
Why protected  
tenants face  
an uncertain  
future

SL

## This man will not buckle under

David Coleridge, chairman of Lloyd's of London, is in the eye of the storm. Yet despite the angry MPs, the press relishing the rich in trouble, and threats of government-imposed regulation, he remains calmly and modestly unbowed

As if he ever wanted was a quiet, prosperous life. His needs are modest. He drives a Ford Escort; he would never in a million years want a Rolls-Royce. He adores his wife Susan, whom he refers to as a girl, and he looks forward only to a cosy retirement at his comfortable house in Sussex, where his chief interests are collecting 18th-century watercolours and keeping his garden tidy, or rather "talking to my gardener". He never wished to find himself in the headlines every day, in the eye of a storm. But when winds blow and ships toss and roofs crash down, Lloyd's members have to pay. Some more than others. And there is the cause of all the current embarrassment.

David Coleridge is a capacious man who sits in a capacious office at the pinnacle of Richard Rogers's great glass monument to capitalism in the City of London. When he took his unpaid and hitherto low-profile post he never expected this degree of personal exposure. But now Tory MPs are baying for blood, and it is the chairman's blood they are after. There has even been a motion tabled in the House (by a Labour MP, but inspired by furious Tories) questioning whether this decent, civil, troubled man is a fit person to run Lloyd's.

He calls it "all this fuss", "all this banging on", "all this shouting and screaming". Luckily he is the type of man Julius Caesar preferred to have about him: "fat, sleek-headed, and such as sleep o' nights". Mr Coleridge confesses he snores through each night, and never takes work home. It is his second year in the job, and he knew when he took it these would be bad years. He has spent his entire adult life at Lloyd's. He joined them straight from Eton at the age of 18, after being turned down by the Green Jackets (flat feet) and missing out on Oxford (he sat the wrong papers). He turned his company, Sturge, into a vastly successful one. He has known fat years, and flak years — the scandals of 1981 — the self-regulation that followed, and now the reckoning after an unprecedented run of disasters. Lloyd's always thrived on an anticipated disaster per year; but the years 1987-90 began to look like the wrath of the gods.

Between October 1987 and January 1990, there were at least 15 major (ie costing \$1 billion) catastrophes in the world: the Piper Alpha, Exxon Valdez, hurricanes Betsy and Hugo, earthquakes in California, typhoons and other meteorological mayhem.

At such times, people lose money. "It doesn't matter whether we are regulated by parliament, by the DTI or the Almighty. Only the Almighty could determine which catastrophes would occur, when and how many. In fact, He would be the best person to regulate us."

Lloyd's, the traditional heart of the London insurance market, attracts attention because of the human factor: its Names. If the world insurance market suffers losses, nobody notices much, but Lloyd's is a collection of individuals, and its outside names are often famous — actresses, sportsmen, MPs — and noisy. "So ours is human news," says Mr Coleridge. "Melvyn Bragg, who is a member, came to see me about our PR last year. He was very concerned about our poor press. But everyone thinks we could improve our PR. People are always saying to me, I could get you Sir Tim Bell. I've even been told I should have somebody sitting in my office the whole time. Nothing could be further from Mr Coleridge's idea of a pleasant life."

In his family, and in his wife's ("she is a beauty"), of the Northumbrian family whose fortunes were founded upon coal, a newspaper is a place where one announces births, marriages and deaths and in which one never otherwise appears, least of all on front pages with words like scandal and malpractice and "structural rotteness". Neither does

one wish to appear on breakfast television as "a whipping boy". "One is held responsible for all the problems of a market which is 280 syndicates, and at least 150 businesses, each of which has its own board, makes its own decisions, appoints its own underwriters, sets its own risks, pays people, sacks people." He is in the chair, but has no control over them. What can he do?

He can pass on the recommendations of David Rowland's Task Force, including a members' charter that would give them rights akin to shareholders'. Put together a self-regulatory operation ensuring investor protection. Increase the central fund (the last resort when a syndicate fails) from £500 million to £1 billion. Make members' agents charge less. All these he has done. He set up Dr Mary Archer's hardship committee for distressed Names, which helps to pick up the broken pieces. But still Mr Coleridge finds himself a political football.

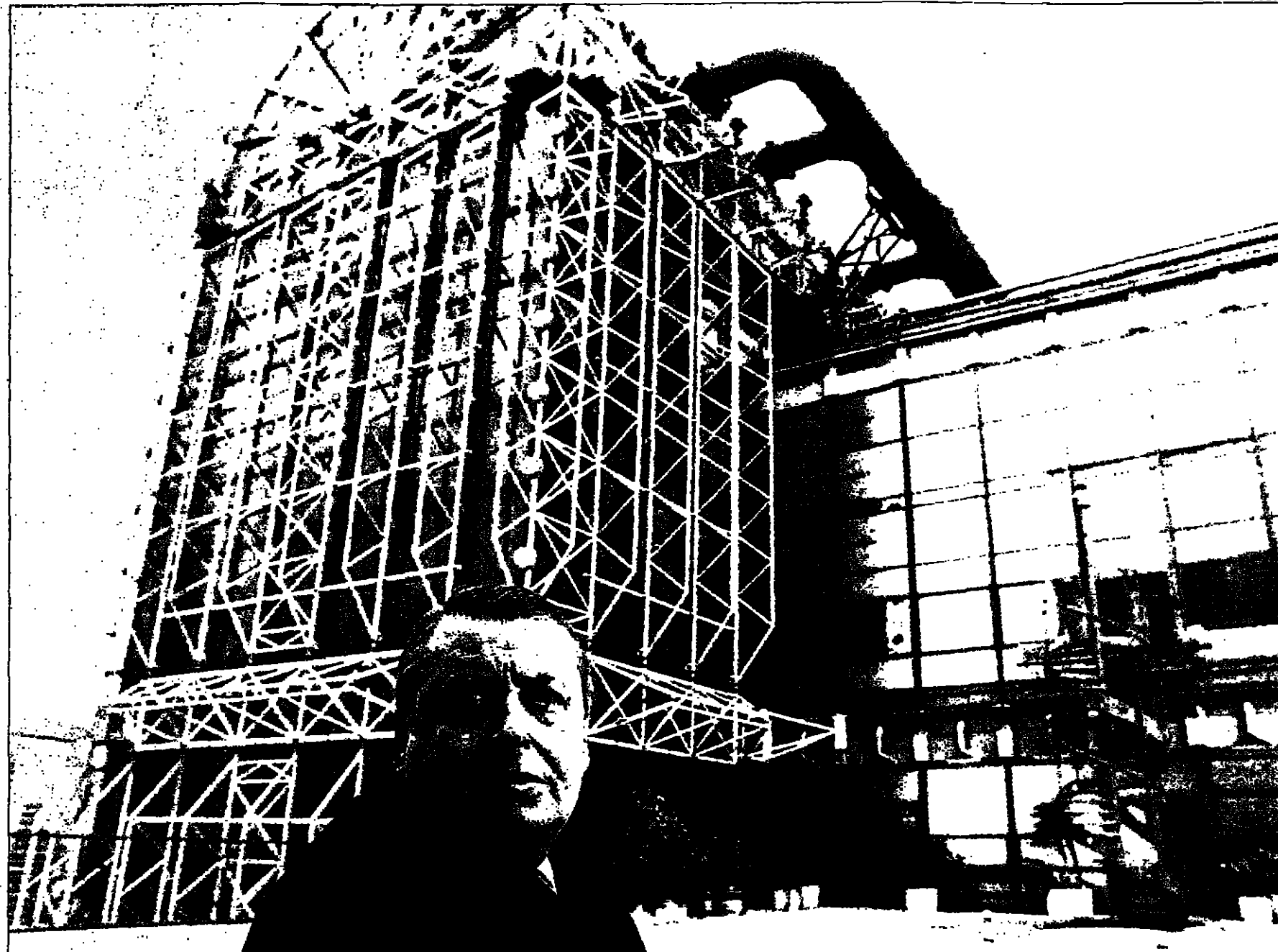
Last week's confrontation with MPs shocked even Tam Dalyell by its "gratuitous rudeness and bad behaviour". The

MPs' spokesman was Paul Marland, Tory member for Gloucestershire West, in Mr Coleridge's view aggressive and belligerent. "He handed out, on rather many bits of paper, a list of 13 questions he wants answered. They are perfectly fair questions, the sort one would ask if one was in a sinking bad mood, and if one blamed the loss of one's money on an institution, accusing it of every sort of

heinous crime." The chairman next week, "which I have no doubt will not satisfy him". Marland has lost money. His hobbies, in *Who's Who*, are expensive: skiing, shooting, riding, fishing. He was involved in the LMX section of the market. "The members' agency he switched to was Gooda Walker, which specialises in reinsurance. I don't know why he joined them," Mr Coleridge adds, frowning his brow. "He happened to join them just as they picked up a lot of losses, in '88 and '89. He has substantial losses, and I am very sorry for him."

This frowning of the brow, when explaining some unpleasant but unavoidable fact, is a family characteristic. It is replicated in his eldest son Nicholas, who is at 34 at the peak of the glossy magazine world, as managing director and still editorial director of the Condé Nast magazine empire in London. Coleridge senior professes a genial vagueness about his illustrious son. "At school he edited the *Eton Chronicle* with Craig Brown — always in trouble, with some article being banned. Then he started a magazine at Cambridge, as children do, called *Rampage*. And just after he came down he was asked by — Tessa Evans, is it? Tina Brown — to join *The Tatler* — I remember he was in the bath when her call came."

"Now he is writing a huge book about the major newspaper proprietors of the world. He got to Robert Maxwell just in time." There are two more sons: the youngest is still out of harm's way at



In the shadow of Lloyd's: David Coleridge in front of Richard Rogers's landmark in the City. "I wouldn't dream of resigning. I think it's the wettest thing you could ever do"

Oxford; the middle son Timmy, who works at Sturge, nurses a somewhat hopeless Tory parliamentary seat in Northern Ireland, Lagan Valley. "Though in my view," says Coleridge père, "anyone who wants to go into full-time politics needs his brains tested."

The parliamentary walls are the sharpest thorn in Mr Coleridge's flesh just now. He must hope that the MPs' allegations in the House of dastardly dealing whereby insiders (Names working within Lloyd's) managed to protect themselves while outsiders names have floundered, will not be terminally damaging. He does not wish the next government, of whatever hue, to impose an outside regulatory body on Lloyd's. In any case, as he says, nothing can stop the effects of past losses. Unfair it may be, that some syndicates lost, and that 25 per cent of members have had to bear the biggest losses, often 100 per cent of their premiums, while the other 75 per cent have lost much less. He can do nothing to help: "I have no great treasure trove of money to give them."

Here in the world outside, some have barely stifled their mirth, to see so much angst resulting from the pursuit of riches. Genuine hardluck stories attract sympathy as well as Schadenfreude, but many Names (including MPs) enjoyed too many years on the gravy train to be objects of pity now. Were not the risks — "you could lose everything down to your outlinks" — set out as clearly as a government health warning on a packet of Silk Cut?

Those who rashly joined Lloyd's with their banks guaranteeing sums partly collateralised on the value of their houses, may now find themselves in front of Dr Archer's hardship panel, but Lloyd's sternly expects them to "behave properly". They must stop underwriting forthwith, and sell all properties except the one they live in. "Nobody wants anyone to end up in the doss house. But you might have to reach some compromise with Dr Archer about your house." Which means? "You and your spouse may remain in it while alive, but eventually it would come to us."

"Lloyd's commitments must be honoured. You wouldn't find it frightfully amusing, would you, if you had an insurance claim for

£10,000 on your house or jewellery or factory, and were told you could only have £9,000 because the other £1,000 could not be found? Lloyd's policies must be paid. The moment a Lloyd's policy wasn't paid, it would be the end."

Mr Coleridge is not going to buckle under. *The Independent* ran a story this week saying that he was ready to resign. "The Independent seems for some reason to have a particular vendetta against Lloyd's," Mr Coleridge furrows his brow again. Ian Hay Davison is the former Lloyd's chief executive who has turned negative about the place. He is also on the board of *The Independent*.

"Their reporter rang to say, one or two people are calling for your resignation, will you resign? I said the only reason I would resign is if the council of Lloyd's, which asked me to be chairman, made it obvious they wanted me to go and asked me to do the decent thing: then I would consider it very carefully. So he writes, 'Chairman considering resignation'. Absolute rubbish. I wouldn't dream of resigning. I think it's the wettest thing you could ever do. There is nothing I've done that I would change. I have nothing to hide."

He is described by his eldest son as "the unfashionist and least arrogant person I know, and the least impressed by status and grandeur". "I've never been short of anything, but haven't wanted much," says the father, apologetically for not being more "interesting".

"I'm a very happy, contented man. I probably have the happiest life that anyone's ever had. I've been married to the same girl for 36 years, and I don't profess to have ever had a hard time. I've probably been over-kind to my children but I'm very fond of them. I don't demand anything else out of life. It's been a bit miserable lately," he adds, "but I just have to ride with it."

He will be 60 in June, and can retire on his well-fed pension fund. In the meantime his income probably totals around £500,000 a year, and he is driven around in the office Mercedes. His simple retirement plan is to do little except "look after my wife, and travel with her, and let her do whatever she wishes".

Jak, the cartoonist of the *Evening Standard*, produced a cartoon the other night after H.M. Bateman: "The man who wanted to become a member of Lloyd's", a foolish fellow in a bowler hat, with collapse of stout parties all round. In fact, Mr Coleridge says cheerfully, now is a very good time to join, if you have £250,000; but don't imagine you can include the value of your suburban semi. World insurance premiums have soared, and since members have left in droves there is room for new names.

"We'll have a good year in '92, '93 and probably '94. Last year

150 joined, and existing members can always increase their participation, as I did myself, *pour encourager les autres*. In the risk business, if you don't make money now you never ever will, so one might as well take advantage."

On the way out we looked into the famous Room where insurance is bought and sold, source of profit and pain. It was empty and silent, its screens blank: nothing keeps a Lloyd's man from his lunch. There in the centre was the great Lutine bell that used to be rung when a ship went missing. Last June the Lutine bell rang for Mr Coleridge, when he addressed members at

his first AGM. "The AGM always used to last half an hour," he said tragically. "But I had to announce a loss of £500 million and there were a lot of unhappy people, so I was standing there" — on his flat feet — "for four hours."

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### THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



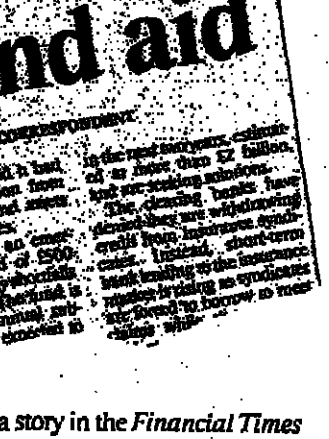
bemoan a lad  
Olympic spirit

Debts deal  
a blow  
to bump

Market can call on £18 billion  
**Lloyd's denies seeking Bank of England aid**

LLOYD'S of London has announced it does not intend to approach the Bank of England for a £18 billion loan to cover its losses. The insurance market's spokesman said the market was "not in a position to ask the Bank for such a large sum of money". He added that the market was "not in a position to ask the Bank for such a large sum of money".

Lloyd's Names: Dr Mary Archer (left) and Princess Michael



Melvyn Bragg, TV presenter



Henry Cooper, former boxer

**Winter Weather Wreaks Havoc on Homes**  
ONCE again, the British weather has taken its toll. The lowest temperatures for years have wreaked havoc with householders across the country. With frozen pipes, failed heating systems and possible flooding, plumbers everywhere are stretched to the limit.

**SEVERE WEATHER WARNING**  
Freezing temperatures and heavy snowfall are expected to continue during the next week. Strong northerly winds will reach gale force and hit the whole country at some time over the next few days.

**Don't be caught out this year - take out Home Emergency Services now!**

When you consider the severity of the British Winter, it really does make good sense to have 'emergency' protection for your home.

Not just traditional insurance but special cover which protects you and your home against all types of household emergencies.

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# Profit to be had from recycling

LONDON GALLERIES

Richard Cork on the incidental pleasures and discoveries resulting from the rehanging of the collection at the Tate Gallery

Under the Tate Gallery's mercurial director, Nick Serota, the Millbank collection never gives anyone a chance to become jaded. Regular transformations of hanging and selection keep even the most seasoned visitors on their toes. Fresh aspects of the Tate's holdings are revealed, judicious loans provide stimulating new company for familiar paintings, and the accepted pantheon of reputations is joined by the reappraisal of long-forgotten artists.

The latest round, launched this week under the deceptively quiet title *New Displays 1992*, provides an abundance of surprises. In the rotunda beyond the main entrance, where no works are normally presented, Brancusi's gleaming *Maestra* now presides atop a tall white plinth.

The repositioning catches you off-balance, stimulating a new response. And the eye-cleansing becomes progressively more intense once the lofty Duveen Galleries have been entered.

Eric Gill's *Crucifixion* of 1910, now restored to a pristine state, introduces a spectacular space exploring "primitivism" in early 20th-century sculpture. Gill's carving, which helped to make his reputation in a controversial one-man show, relies on a sophisticated understanding of Gauguin and medieval art alike.

All the way through this section, sculptors likewise enjoy a close, physical engagement with their chosen materials. Frank Dobson hews his *Man Child* into block-like forms, emphasising the strength of the rugged infant struggling to escape from his mother's embrace.

And Epstein's *Jacob and the Angel*, a mountainous masterpiece borrowed for the occasion, retains a strong sense of the original alabaster block. Clinging in a half-spiral and half-sexual union, the two combatants' limbs are highly polished. But Epstein has left plenty of areas around them roughly chiselled, as a reminder of his own parallel struggle to release these figures from the stone.

Henry Moore, too often seen in isolation as the loner hero of modern British sculpture, benefited hugely from this older generation. A trio of bronze crosses, among the most satisfying of his later works, dominates the Duveen Octagon. Organic forms swell in their effort to burst out of these primordial columns, but Moore's muscularity gives way to stillness in the space beyond. A serenely incised marble carving by Kim Lim evokes the rhythms of the sea, while William Turnbull's bronze *Queen*

manages to give a large vertical leaf-form a feminine presence.

Both these satisfying works are new acquisitions, and so is Alison Wilding's free-standing copper sculpture called *Locust*. Elegant yet sinister, it exemplifies the subtle ambiguity of a sculptor too often overshadowed by her more celebrated contemporaries.

The Tate's policy of strategic borrowing pays off in the middle of this invigorating section where Stephen Cox has lent a richly textured carving called *Chrysalis*. As the title implies, a form appears to be emerging from the imperial porphyry block. But it is held in suspense, and an even greater ambiguity can be found in Anish Kapoor's new acquisition beyond.

An outstandingly beautiful work, *A Wing at the Heart of Things* bears out the wisdom of awarding

door. Bars of basalt are scattered across the wooden floor, like the survivors of a calamitous explosion. Each one contains clay and felt inside an eye-like cavity, implying the possibility of future regeneration. But it remains a bleak work, powerfully conveying Beuys's awareness of his imminent death as well as the precariousness of the world he inhabited.

A major work by Beuys has long been high on the Tate's list of desiderata. The government's miserly annual purchase grant would not, however, have permitted its acquisition without the help of an American benefactor: Edwin C. Cohen.

Artists can, on occasion, be equally generous. An entire room has been devoted to Francis Bacon's recent gift of a late triptych. Appropriately enough, the painting is a restatement of an early triptych already owned by the Tate: the exorbitant *Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucifixion*, which made Bacon's reputation at the end of the war.

Although more than 40 years separate the two works, the essence of his vision has not altered. The howling figures are surrounded by far larger spaces in the later triptych, which replaces the earlier painting's orange ground with a deep red. But the isolation and anguish remain constant, driving home the consistency of Bacon's obsessions.

Gifts can also help a collection represent foreign artists who are virtually unknown in Britain. Among the De Chiricos and Picassos in a roomful of European Masters 1920-50, an unidentifiable note is sounded by a painting of a woman yawning. The artist turns out to be Fausto Pirandello, and this donation by his son deserves to stir our curiosity about Pirandello's other work. Twisting on her bed, the woman's body echoes the pose of Laurens's bronze *Autumn* nearby. Both works were executed in 1948, but the undulating sensuality of the sculpture only accentuates the disquiet of Pirandello's picture.

Surprises are by no means confined to the Modern Collection. Over in the Historic British rooms, the selection of Hogarths has been boosted by the loan of his greatest full-length portrait. The redoubtable Captain Coram, a seafarer who went on to establish London's first Foundling Hospital, inspired Hogarth to produce one of his most robust and sympathetic likenesses. Although the painting has grandeur, the bluff old sea-dog ensures



Hogarth's greatest? Captain Coram, courtesy of the Thomas Coram Foundation for Children

that it is not pretentious. He grasps the Royal Charter's seal for the hospital with understandable pride, and the glove gripped in his other hand suggests that Coram is about to leap from his chair and busy himself with further plans for the building.

Elsewhere, the representation of Gainsborough is enormously enhanced by the loan of the National Gallery's irresistible *The Morning Walk*. As for the Tate's Constables, they have been made even more commanding by the advent of

Baron Thyssen's recently acquired painting *The Lock*. The youth straining at the lock gate is surely the most dynamic of all Constable's figures, and the landscape beyond shows the artist at his most accomplished.

The Germans look potent enough nearby, gaining from a recently acquired Corinth which adds strength to Gross's macabre *Suicide*, Beckmann's frozen *Carnival* and Kirchner's jaundiced gaggle of Expressionist bathers savouring the water at Moritzburg.

They, in their turn, provide an excellent context for a challenging space on the other side of the building, where the vertigo-inducing Baselitz and the death-haunted Kokoschka provide unorthodox but coherent company for De Kooning's late abstractions. The Rotterdam-born De Kooning has never looked more European than he does in this questioning and at times revelatory display.

*New Displays 1992*, at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313) until February 1993.

## CRITIC'S CHOICE

● **AMERICAN SCREEN PRINTS** Though the poster features a Lichtenstein cartoon and the catalogue cover a Warhol Marilyn, this show of prints from the Reba and Dave Williams Collection in the only British venue in its European tour hardly concerns the Sixties at all. Those injured by the promise of Pop delights will find instead an extraordinary assemblage of prints from the Thirties and Forties, reflecting such local realist styles as precisionism and Regionalism, and evoking the New Deal era with great intensity.

Fitwell Museum, Cambridge (0223 332900). Tues-Fri 2-5pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.15-5pm, to March 1.

● **THE BROTHERS ROBINSON** Not only William Heath, but also his older brother Thomas Heath and Charles were notable book illustrators. Though Heath Robinson (i.e. William) entered the dictionary as a synonym for gimcrack, fantastical machinery, and made most of his later fame and fortune from pursuing these more eccentric interests, he was also an exquisite draughtsman and a charming author for children. Charles was of a more frilly fantasy, and Thomas the most robust.

Chris Beetles, 8 & 10 Ryder Street, London SW1 (071-839 7551). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, to March 20.

● **JENNIFER DURRANT** The Barbican Centre is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. First of the shows commemorating the occasion is that devoted to *Shine* and about 40 other paintings by Jennifer Durrant. Characteristically, they are abstracts with mystical overtones, working in sequences where particular colours and shapes are progressively transformed to produce new harmonies and hinted significances.

Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (071-638 4141). Mon-Sat, 10am-7.30pm. Sun, midday-7.30pm, to March 24.

● **SOCIETY OF WOMEN ARTISTS ANNUAL OPEN** Product of an early stage of feminism, the Society was founded in 1855 to encourage the world to take women artists seriously as professionals. This is perhaps not such an urgent priority now.

Westminster Gallery, Central Hall Westminster, London SW1 (071-222 8010). Mon-Sat, 10am-7pm, to March 3. JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

**TOMORROW IN WEEKEND TIMES**  
Readers' offers:  
Private views of Mantegna and Alexander Calder at the Royal Academy

## TELEVISION REVIEW

### Courts appeal

Television trials traditionally make compulsive viewing, but what about the real thing? Television cameras have recently brought the live drama of trials such as the William Kennedy Smith rape case direct into our sitting rooms from the other side of the Atlantic. Nearer to home, though, viewers are kept at one remove from such scenes in this country, cameras are banned from the courtroom.

That ban and whether it should be lifted is the subject of a new ten-part Channel 4 series, Court TV: America on Trial. It aims to give viewers a taste of what is now broadcast from the American courts and to inform the debate here on whether we should follow suit.

The series, presented by Professor Michael Zander from the London School of Economics, kicked off last Saturday with lengthy excerpts from two trials: the first the case of a former marine charged with manslaughter after he shot a neighbour in an argument over a car-parking space. The second was from the "insanity" trial of serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer, held to decide, after he had pleaded guilty, the defendant's state of mind at the time of the alleged crimes.

At the end, experts argued over whether such a technological invasion into the courtroom was in the interests of justice: whether it was informative and enlightening, or mass voyeurism which turned lives "into living soap opera".

For the general viewer I suspect the programme will be of limited interest. Those brought up on a legal diet of *LA Law* (welcome back in a new series) or *Rumpole* will find out what court reporters have known for years: just how tedious and slow-moving the progress can be. Hours may pass for perhaps two minutes of drama.

In the Channel 4 pro-

gramme, cases have been drawn from Court Television, the American cable station devoted to court broadcasting. Despite careful selection to maintain a trial's momentum, it is likely to be only devoted court-watchers of television equivalents of people who queue in all weathers for the public gallery at the Old Bailey—who sit through its 90 minutes (starting at 11.15pm).

But that isn't all bad. If anything, it underlines the case that televising court trials is not about posing lawyers (dramatic speeches there were, but in softly spoken, understated tones); although in America, at least, it is about anguished witnesses and defendants.

That need not be so here: proponents of cameras in the courts favour strict guidelines on what could be shown, and argue that many criminal trials (even some in the programme) would not be suitable. The main weakness may be that the range of possible trials—appeals, tribunals, constitutional issues—is not fully explored, with too great an emphasis on the criminal variety.

Who, though, would want to sit through the complex legal argument of a constitutional case? Most people prefer *LA Law* (ITV, last night), the fast-moving legal fantasy world, where the dizzying cocktail of glamour and sex could not be more removed from the dull, dry courtrooms of England and Wales.

In last night's episode (*Here Comes the Judge*) we had a judicial suicide, a burgeoning lesbian affair and a young lawyer with a mission (to expose police brutality). It may well be that, like Parliament, real trials on television have limited appeal. Humankind, after all, cannot bear too much reality. But at least we should be given the choice.

FRANCES GIBB

Paul Griffiths reviews a production of Wagner's *Parsifal* that seems more at home in Houston than in its native Hamburg

### Ten-year gestation turns out well after all

The American avant-garde theatre director Robert Wilson spent a decade planning his production of *Parsifal*. It was first staged in Hamburg last year, not happily, by all accounts. Now, Wilson's concept has finally been realised in his home state of Texas, where it is the highlight of David Gockley's twentieth season as general director of Houston Grand Opera. It has been a long wait, and it goes on being a long wait, not only because short intervals barely interrupt the opera's slow continuity, but also because the whole feel of the production is of waiting, of attendance, of attention.

As such it is a very Wilsonian evening, empty of narrative but alert in atmosphere. It is also a very Wagnerian evening, for the whole way the production looks and moves in is deep submarine echo to the music.

Almost nothing happens. From an opera not exactly spinning with incident, Wilson removes even the events one would have thought indispensable. There is no Grail ceremony. The chorus sing from the auditorium balconies, to marvellous effect, making the entire theatre, not just the stage, a temple.

Similarly the absence of a communion service—Armfortas's attendant youth simply reaches into a crystal rock for an undefined object—intensifies and amplifies the sense of the numinous by divesting it of imitation. Instead of copying Christianity's sacred act, the production strains to convey a mystery of its own, for as the music moves through time and space towards Montsalvat, so a giant disc of white light descends, a wonder in itself and a greater wonder in pointing, through the evident manufacturedness of Plexiglass, cables and fluorescent tubes, to some imaginable floating halo beyond the pow-

ers even of Wilson's stagecraft and the combined technical expertise of Houston and Hamburg.

Another central action withdrawn is Kundry's kiss, and again the moment is powerfully charged. A kiss we cannot see must be happening on some cosmic plane. It is the unseen characters who touch here, not the singers who have to give them voice and some representation on stage.

More generally, the manner of that representation is also marked by withdrawal. The singers move like sleepwalkers, or like Noh actors (monochrome costumes and make-up), or like people with this music in their motor systems. Posture is steady and erect; arms are held stiff, or choreographed into twists and swoops, but never used to explain or accredit what is sung.

This places the singers under a naked glare. Since movement here exists only for and of itself, one notices any flicker, and since the singers have no other means at their disposal, they have to convey everything in the music only with their voices. They come across with an intense presence. They are beings of another kind. Nor is there any stage architecture to give them a habitation.

Attention is focused not only on the singers and the music, but also on the few magic acts that remain, such as the descent of the glowing torus. The whole drama is begun and ended by a little boy in a loincloth walking slowly across the stage. Parsifal's stylised wing, as if made from paper, falls in slow motion through the rectangle: it could be the swan passing over to meet Parsifal's arrow, but Gurnemanz is singing of angels, and it could also be



Parsifal (John Keyes), with Flowermaidens in Robert Wilson's production of *Parsifal* for Houston Grand Opera

the wing of the dove. Then the spear, a slender shaft of light, floats without visible means of support into Parsifal's grasp.

Of course not everything quite sustains the miracle. One could wish Wilson had made the flower maidens invisible as well as the Grail knights. Even here, though, the production is level and cool, not so much otherworldly as simply and very beautifully "other". It has splendid support from Christoph Eschenbach, conducting a performance of passion and fluid speed, though a decent forte is hard to attain in this company's large theatre. The central performances, too, respond magnificently to the demands of Wilson and Wagner's music.

John Keyes, recently Siegmund for Scottish Opera, displays again a voice of baritone fullness and sure length of phrase. At the end he shows commanding authority, grandly preferring vocal

strength to ring. Harry Peeters is a wonderful Gurnemanz, looking as impassive as a statue, but his young man's voice flooding with richness and nuance.

Richard Paul Fink sings a happily direct and strong Klingsor. There is no need for him to croak his wizardry when he can prove it by

delivering most of his part perched without safeguard on his high tower. Dunja Vejzovic is a strikingly powerful Kundry and fully takes on the spirit of the production.

Not at all so lucky was the season's new opera, coming from a company which in the last five years has introduced *Nixon in China*, *New Year*

and Meredith Monk's *Atlas*. Desert of Roses, Robert Moran's setting of a libretto by Michael John LaChiusa, was a very limp piece, by American folksong out of minimalism, telling us all you need is love. But nice performances, and odd to find John Dew directing a pretty straightforward production.

RETURN TO THE

# FORBIDDEN PLANET

By Bob Carlton

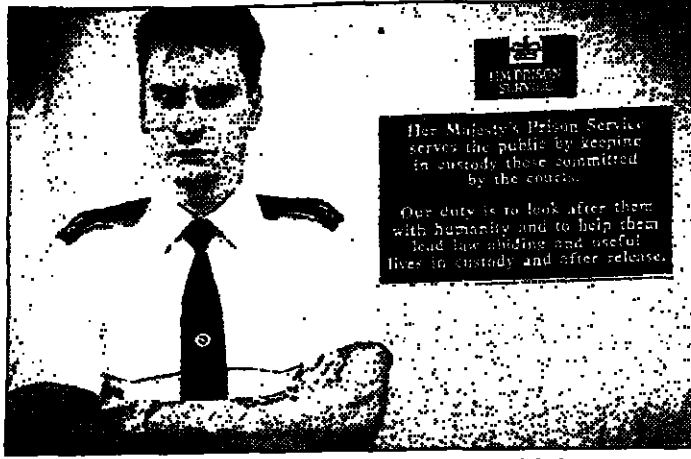
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# A jailhouse of ill repute



Brixton's F-wing is officially known as "the Health Care Annex"

There can be few places in any civilised society like Brixton's F-wing. In no other prison or institution in the country have 15 inmates committed suicide in the past three years. Most of them did so on F-wing.

The grim Victorian block stands at the eastern end of the prison, rising above the perimeter wall to glimpse the normality of the sane world beyond. Until recently the four landings of F-wing housed more than 200 mentally-disturbed prisoners, most on remand, in overcrowded and insanitary conditions, most of whom should never have been housed in prison but in psychiatric hospital wards.

Conditions are now better than they were even as recently as a year ago. Brixton has a new governor, Dr Andrew Coyle, who once trained as a Jesuit priest and has a postgraduate degree in criminology. He was appointed last summer in the wake of the Woolf Report and the acute political embarrassment caused by the escape of the IRA prisoners Pearce, McAuley and Nesson Quinnivan.

Dr Coyle would be regarded as a liberal reformer but not one with a soft head: as a former governor of Peterhead, Scotland's "powder-keg" jail, he is made of sterner stuff. So far, there have been no suicides since he took over. No doubt he would touch wood, given the problems he faces in changing the legacy of decades of physical and human neglect.

To say that conditions have improved is an indictment of a dreadful past, not an approbation of the present. Only two of the four landings in F-wing are now occupied by prisoners with medical problems, many mentally disturbed. There are now just over a hundred in all. Most inmates of F-wing suffer from some form of schizophrenia, like the tragic Stefan Kiszko in another institution, a psychosis often induced by the trauma of prison.

Two months ago, one inmate with schizophrenia went through the motions of attempted suicide after he'd asked for medication and not received any. "I had a sheet and I ripped shreds out of it. I pushed them through one part of the cell window and pulled them through with a matchstick. I got a couple of shreds through and just put them round my neck. The cell windows are supposed to be suicide-proof but they're not."

Looking at the windows in the cell he currently occupies, I could see what he meant. But even if the windows were secure, and most of those in F-wing have now been

**'A couple of years ago I was in a system that was destructive and corrupting and foul and racist and degrading'**  
DR PAUL BOWDEN

meant. We heard from prisoners in F-wing that there had been an attempted suicide on one of the top two landings that house "normal" inmates.

We asked to see the cell. The door was opened to reveal a metal bed standing on its end with a noose made out of sheets dangling from the top. In a corner were the charred remains of a blanket. Clearly the attempted suicide had been a gesture. The blanket had been lit so the smoke would attract the prison officers. It did. The man was taken down to the special cells on the ground floor of F-wing, kept under observation for the rest of the night and transferred to the prison hospital the following morning. He was then counselled by staff (they seem genuinely concerned and bitterly resent their media image).

Dr Coyle said the inmate had been deeply upset by the prospect of a harrowing trial and that he needed to express "his frustration and fear". He had not been judged a suicide risk.

But the real scandal of F-wing concerns conditions in the "strip" cells — so called because they are stripped of conventional furniture — where prisoners are taken when a doctor thinks they need special

Peter Taylor, who spent a month this year in Brixton jail making a television documentary, describes the F-wing, notorious for the suicides among its mentally disturbed inmates

protection because of the risk of suicide or the risk to staff from their uncontrollable behaviour. Dr Coyle stressed that they are only used on medical direction and for the shortest possible time: he insisted they were not used for punishment, although one prison officer, having turned the key, remarked that the prisoner would now learn not to "manipulate the system".

Here, words have gone mad. F-wing itself is now officially known as "the Health Care Annex" and the dozen "strip" cells on the ground floor are called "Special Medical Rooms". The ten containing cardboard furniture are known as "Semi-Furnished Accommodation". Two, completely bare save for a blanket and mattress on the floor, are "Unfurnished Rooms". The authorities have stopped short of calling the unit a "Des Res".

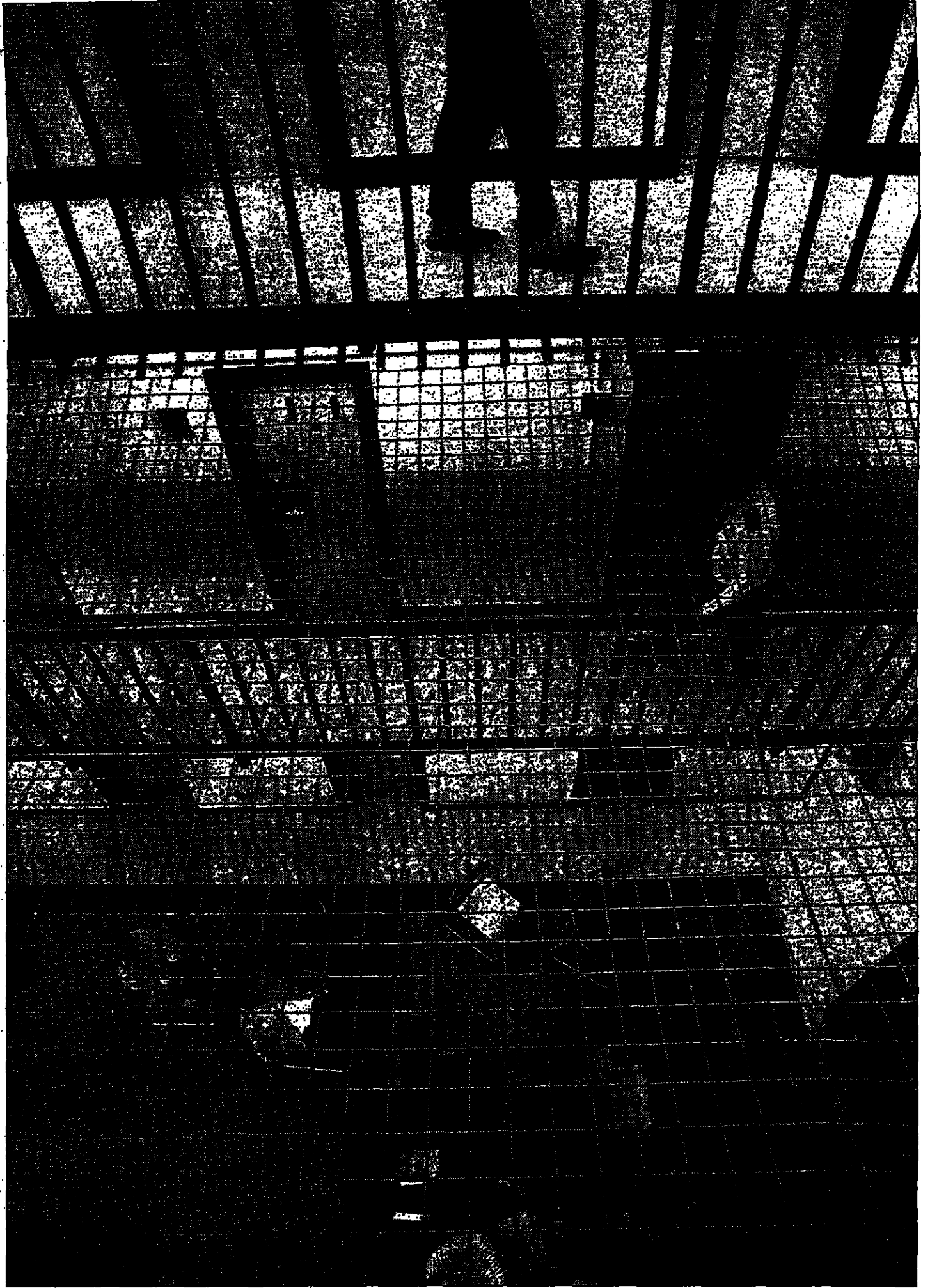
But words cannot sanitize the sight or the smell. The stench of urine and faeces is overpowering. Officers describe the cells as "pigsties". They are appalled at the conditions in which their charges have to live and in which they have to work.

Many of the prisoners held in the "Special Medical Rooms" are black. Forty per cent of Brixton's inmates are black, compared with 16 per cent of the national prison population and nearly 5 per cent of the population as a whole.

A few minutes inside a "Special Medical Room" is enough. The stomach churns as you try to stop breathing. Inmates acting as orderlies clean and disinfect the cells with the resignation of those who paint the Forth Bridge. One helpless prisoner, clad in tear-proof shorts and singlet, was moved from cell to cell as he smeared his faeces on the wall and over his mattress and blanket. Some he even ate.

Clearly he was acutely disturbed, reduced to a pathetic bundle in a blanket in the corner of the cell. The prison doctor had no doubt he should be removed to a psychiatric hospital: the visiting consultant disagreed and said his physical condition could be contained and managed within the prison. Because there was a difference of medical opinion, the man could not be transferred to a psychiatric hospital under Section 48 of the Mental Health Act. It seemed madness had infected the system.

Dr Paul Bowden, a consultant psychiatrist from the Maudsley Hospital, stood in an "Unfurnished Room" for 12 years. (He was not



Only two of the four landings of F-wing are now occupied by prisoners with medical problems, many of them mentally disturbed.

the consultant referred to above.) He was reluctant to talk, almost as if what he wanted to say after so long was too painful. I asked him how he would describe F-wing. There was a long pause. "Awful," he finally said.

"A couple of years ago, a year ago, the situation was such that it was almost impossible to justify being there because I felt inevitably that I was being exploited in a system that was destructive and corrupting and foul and racist and degrading and punitive. I felt that my presence here, in however small a way, allowed that system to continue."

Why did he not pull out? "On many occasions, I very nearly did."

I've felt it's important to work here — out of humility and in the hope that in an individual way one might be able to change the lives of some of the prisoners that you came into contact with."

If ever change was long overdue, it is at Brixton. Dr Coyle wholeheartedly agrees: "The conditions in here for prisoners who are psychiatrically disturbed are intolerable. We have to start at the premise they should not be in prison at all."

But he accepts that they are and, until the criminal justice system takes proper account of the problem, he and his fellow governors will have to cope accordingly. Already court schemes are under-

way to divert the severely disturbed away from prisons and into psychiatric hospitals: but the problems are immense with the pressure on beds so acute and institutional resistance considerable.

But there is light in Brixton's dark tunnel. Soon the "Special Medical Rooms" will be closed down and a new modern psychiatric unit opened. Dr Coyle remains confident that he will get the staffing ratios he needs to run it: putting right the wrongs of 150 years does not come cheap.

"My colleagues in the Home Office are reasonable individuals and I'm sure we'll reach a satisfac-

tory agreement," Dr Coyle says, with a hint of a smile. "We have to be eternal optimists working in impossible circumstances."

F-wing, too, will ultimately close to become only a shameful memory of the past and an indictment of governments of all parties who tolerated the scandal for so long. Dr Bowden accepts that at last there is political recognition of what needs to be done. Change, he admits, is already on the way. "Too late, too late. Too many died before it happened."

● The author is the presenter of a two-part *Public Eye* report, *Brixton — Life on the Inside*, starting on BBC2 tonight at 8pm. Part two will be next Friday.

## Taxing time for women

After several alleged rapes in taxis, Alice Thomson meets the fares who feel safe only with a female driver

The Ladycabs office in Archway, north London, is having a busy night. Cigarette ends spill out of ashtrays and all five telephones in the control room are constantly ringing with requests for pick-ups. Across town, a man has been charged with raping a student in a licensed black taxi. Ladycabs, a minicab service that employs only female drivers, has been inundated with requests from women from Southend to Crouch End.

Val and Jane Taylor, a mother-and-daughter team, have the franchise for the Archway office. One of five branches of Ladycabs in north London, they are sitting among the coffee mugs at the end of a 14-hour working day, sorting out the evening's rides.

Mrs Taylor, 43, her feet up on the sink, lights up her last cigarette and expounds on the theory of Ladycabs: "Cindy George set up Ladycabs ten years ago, because she wanted young, single women, pensioners and children to feel safer on the streets. We have always been popular, especially with children —

who account for 40 per cent of our customers — and with rape victims."

"But now that is changing," she says. "Last year a survey carried out in London found that one in four passengers using licensed taxis and minicabs said they have been subjected to assault. We have had a spate of attacks on women in taxis and it is not just vulnerable women who are booking with us, they all are." Prospective customers include some men. Ladycabs will take them, but women have preference.

Mrs Taylor's daughter, Jane, 23, looks shattered but elated. "We have had four times more requests than we can cover today. People ring from everywhere, but we have to tell them that we only pick up from north London. We're getting legal secretaries, female medical staff, media people, as well as the old woman up the road." When the news comes through that the man charged with raping a student is a licensed cab driver, they are both stunned. "If we can't take a customer, we tell women to ring for a licensed black cab because they have always seemed safe



Wheelbase: Tracy Johnson in her minicab. 'I always lock all the doors and rarely get out of the car after dark'

and the drivers are thoroughly vetted," Mrs Taylor says. Ladycabs drivers are also carefully selected. There are 20 drivers. They must have clean driving licences, a pristine car and must be prepared to act as psychiatrist, social worker, nanny, friend or meals-on-wheels at a moment's notice. If an elderly woman hasn't rung in for a long time, they will check that she is all right. Child customers are sent birthday cards.

At 8pm, Stephanie Duke is sitting in the control room. She controls the evening shift service and alternates between barking orders at speed down the radio and chatting to potential customers on the phone. "Customers are at ease with us. They don't feel they are being chatted up when the driver starts talking to them and they really open up. They tell you about everything from their washing machine to their sex life." She adds: "Female passengers are much easier — even when they're drunk they just giggle or cry and they always pay their bills." Ms Duke's pet bitch, George, sits beside her. A man comes in and George growls. "It's awful — she just hates men. I don't know why," her owner says.

She tells the man there are no cabs left tonight. Tracy Johnson, 27, comes in and heads for the microwave. She has just returned from a three-hour stint on the road and is looking forward to a break and a chat.

Ms Johnson always wears a baseball cap when driving, to hide her long blonde hair. Her mother was terrified when she said she was becoming a minicab driver. But Ms Johnson feels safe. "I always lock all the doors. I very rarely get out of the car after dark and I always check people out as they come down the stairs. If I'm worried I wave my radio in the air to make them think I am an undercover policewoman," she says. "It is sad that we have to resort to women-only cabs but if there is a need it should be provided. I like working with women. We really support each other. We don't talk cookery books, we talk one-way systems."

Fifteen minutes later, and Ms Johnson is back at work. "Archway 2-3 can you ring them out please," she says as we arrive at a house near King's Cross station. A woman looks nervously out of the window. Ms Johnson takes off her cap and the woman comes down.

"Normally I would hail a taxi on the street but I am too frightened now. I have the idea of being stuck in the back of a taxi with a man, unable to get out," says Deborah Rix, a medical student who has been visiting a friend. Ms Johnson chats amiably and hands around the cigarettes and Polos. She drops Ms Rix near Regent's Park, watching to make sure she is safely in her house.

Our next stop is the Whitlington hospital. Angela Baker is waiting with her two small children. Mrs Baker prefers to take a Ladycab when she is with the children. She hasn't used other minicabs since the night a driver put his hand between her legs. Ms Johnson explains how to minimise the risks: "Anyone with a car can set up as a minicab driver. Always ask the company whether their cabs are insured and whether they check their drivers for criminal records and never hail a minicab off the street."

My next lift is with Pam Lewis, 55, who has been a minicab driver for 20 years. "I have been a cabbie for so long I feel safe now," Mrs Lewis says. She gets out of the car to ask someone for an address. We are meant to be picking up a 15-year-old girl from a party but we can't find the right block of flats. Ms Duke radios us to say the mother is worried. Ten minutes later we have located the party and Honey is escorted out. Honey loves Ladycabs and hates men. She explains she was raped two years ago. "I only go to girlfriends' houses now and I always go home early. Mum pays for me to take a Ladycab everywhere. My friends think I am spoilt but I honestly couldn't trust anyone else."

At 12.30am the office is closing. Occasionally the company will make arrangements for later pick-ups but the drivers don't like it. Many of them have to be up in time to give their families breakfast. Ms Duke is winding down. Her voice is becoming fainter as she tells the 60th person that night that there are no cars left.

Over at Computer Cab in Westbourne Park, Rita Maloney, the senior operator, is also winding up her shift. Computer Cab is the largest licensed radio-cab service in Britain, with 2,440 male and 46 female drivers. Twenty telephonists take requests for cabs. Between 3pm and midnight tonight they have had 2,600 bookings — 261 of them from women. Ms Maloney says the number of women making bookings has risen in the last few days, because they are reluctant to hail cabs in the street.

Many of the female callers have been worried about rape. The telephonists advise them to ask to see the driver's licence, and to make sure there are no denims in the cab (licensed taxis are checked three times a year for road worthiness). Geoff Kaley, the managing director of Computer Cabs, does not think providing more women drivers is the answer to female fears. "Female taxi services are needed occasionally. But we don't want to get to the stage where women have to go in female cabs and men go in male."

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# Lessons in love-making

The settings are romantic, the expressions rapturous and the couplings adventurous.

Liz Gill reports on the helpfulness or otherwise of the adult sex-education video

The old Woody Allen gag about sex being dirty "only if it's done properly" is unlikely to raise much of a smile with Gregg, one of the protagonists of *Making Love*, for whom adult sex-education videos are a matter of high seriousness.

He and his wife, Anne, shared their most intimate moments with the camera without payment because, he says, they believed in what the film was trying to do. "It is designed to encourage people to talk and think about sex, to communicate more freely with each other and to give partners the means to be better lovers for each other. It is about positive role models."

Such positive role models are cropping up all over the place at the moment. As well as *Making Love*, the selection includes *The Lovers' Guide*, *The Essential Guide to Better Sex*, *Secrets of Making Love* and *Loving Better*, volumes 1 (The Basics) to 4 (Enhancement). All combine explicit footage — intercourse in a variety of positions, oral sex, masturbation, close-ups of genitalia — with wordy commentaries from respected experts.

Dr Elizabeth Stanley, for instance, who introduces *Making Love*, is a former chair of the British Association for Sexual and Marital Therapy. She agreed to front the film because she felt it put sex into the context of a whole relationship. "It stressed the importance of communication outside the bed as well as in."

Dr Stanley has been using films both as teaching aids and in therapy for more than 20 years. She now hopes those who spend £12.99 to watch material hitherto only available to specialists will reap similar benefits. "It could be argued that couples should learn together naturally and obviously nature would guide you if nature were unhindered by cultural taboos, myths and unrealistic expectations."

Even today you cannot underestimate the extent of ignorance. There are still many couples who have never talked openly about sex with each other and this applies to the young as well as older generations. When you are confronted with such explicit sex on screen and hear it being talked about in such a comfortable way it can have a very powerful effect in helping you talk.

"Film has an immediacy and an unavailability which books lack. Consciously or unconsciously with a book you can miss out bits which are probably the bits you need to read." Dr Stanley hopes that the video will be bought by those simply seeking basic information or guidance on improving their sex lives as well as by those in difficulty. In commercial terms the films have been a runaway success. *Making Love* has sold over 30,000 copies in its first month. *The Lovers' Guide*, launched last September, has notched up a staggering 300,000. The question remains, however: are they genuinely conducive to better sexual health or are they simply pornography dressed up in an educational guise?

Dr Russell Reid, a consultant psychiatrist at Hillingdon hospital and an executive officer of the London Institute of Human Sexuality, says: "They are probably used by a lot of people at sex or even hardcore porn, but for those who need that sort of aid there's no great harm."

"They may be quite good for people who have difficulties in a relationship and useful for therapists when patients are bashful or unfamiliar with the basics. It may also give couples with poor or boring sex lives new ideas of ways to enjoy themselves."

"I think people are certainly less promiscuous nowadays than they were a few years ago and it may be that the chance to learn different techniques from other lovers is disappearing. Perhaps these days people have to learn from videos."

What can be learnt is certainly shown in detail and at length — *The Essential Guide to Better Sex*, which has sold more than 3½ million copies in America, has a running time of 90 minutes — and there seems no area of the male and female body or normal sexual activity at which the camera balks. At the same time, the producers have been at such pains to refuse any charges of pornography that the tone often veers between the homely, the didactic and the starchy. The doctors and the sexologists, for example, often sit in book-lined studies to deliver advice, which consists of using lollipop metaphors to explain fellatio. Each theme is usually followed by a demonstration by one of several couples who generally start off by looking rather sheepish before producing a ten-out-of-ten performance. There is one particular scene from *The Essential Guide* which is hard to watch with a straight face. It is the one in which a couple try out a "safe sex sampler kit" featuring not only condoms but rubber gloves, rubber vaginal shields and rubber lip guards.

Many experts are less concerned about the possibility that the videos might be bought for titillation than about other aspects, particularly their idealisation of sex. The commentary may address reality to some extent, but on screen the participants are invariably youthful, good-looking and slender; the settings romantic, the expressions rapturous, the couplings adventurous. The world outside in the form of work, children or domestic routine never intrudes.

Christopher Chulow, the chairman of the Tavistock Institute of Marital Studies, believes that the visual impact of the videos may detract from the verbal message. "It is extremely difficult to hang on to what is being said because these images are so graphic. You do get this very responsible commentary which is all about the relationship underpinning the sex, but what remains is the image and that portrays sex in a disembodied sort of way. However hard the script talks about everyone being different and setting your own standards, the scenes themselves show beautiful people performing wonderfully well. Couples may then think that's the norm. People who are already anxious might find it increases performance anxiety."

Dr Heather Montford, a spokeswoman for the Institute of Psychosexual Medicine, says, "The idealisation can be very off-putting. It does not really help people understand how they feel themselves. It shows how others behave, which may give them ideas or permission to try something or it may be pretty off-putting instead, and make them feel they could never be like that." "It is all rather simplistic. If someone has got real difficulties I shouldn't think a video is enough to solve them. They may help in a



limited way and they may be quite erotic. That's not a problem in itself, though it might be if you are not particularly turned on by your partner, or if one partner is turned on and the other is not. The other possible danger is in a situation where the video is bought by one partner to show the other how they think that person should behave, the 'everyone else does it like this' attitude. Or it might be saying, in effect, 'I need an awful lot to turn me on because you do not'."

She believes the films may be useful for those genuinely needing information, though she is always wary about profound ignorance believing that problems lie not in a lack of available information but in the reasons for not absorbing it.

Dr Reid, who was an adviser on a video called *Seeds of Love* ("basic sex education," he says) originally wanted it aimed at schools, but the producers plumped for the adult market. He still believes children of 15 and over could benefit from "a decent, matter-of-fact film".

It is obviously too early to judge whether better sex on video will mean better sex in the bedrooms of Britain, but Gregg hopes it will. Although he lost his job in the publicity furor surrounding the video's release, most reactions, including those from family and friends, have been positive. He is undaunted at the prospect of showing it "at the right time" to any children he and Anne might have, and unconcerned that the filming of their marital bliss less than a year after their wedding may in any way be delivering a hostage to fortune.

"It was not an easy thing to do but we learnt a lot about each other and I think we've become closer and stronger as a couple."

## Keep on taking the liquids

A GP believes he has a simple way to help people off tranquillisers

At the beginning of this year, John — a Midlands businessman — made a resolution to wean himself off tranquillisers by March 1 after being on them for "18 years of hell". He felt he could give himself a definite date thanks to a new tranquilliser kit, pioneered by Dr Iain Clark, a Buckinghamshire GP.

"The idea is very simple," says Pam Armstrong, a nurse/psychology graduate who chairs the Council for Involuntary Tranquilliser Addiction (CITA). "Most tranquillisers are given in tablet form, which makes it difficult for users to reduce their dosage slowly. Some patients are even advised to score off minuscule amounts using a razor blade. Because of the inaccuracies, the withdrawal symptoms [sweating, anxiety, nausea, bowel disorders] can be unbearably severe."

Dr Clark's kit — known as Benzodiazepine Withdrawal Kit (Penn) — can be obtained by any GP on NHS prescription and consists of Valium in liquid form (Valium is used since it is regarded as the "easiest tranquilliser" to kick). The patient is given two bottles: one contains the tranquilliser and the other contains a dilutant. The patient takes a 5ml dose from the first bottle and replaces the amount (in the same bottle) with dilutant from the second, using the measure provided.

"This enables the patient to reduce his intake so slowly that some almost don't notice it," Miss Armstrong says. "Psychologically, people feel they're taking the same amount (a teaspoon) even though it is diluted, whereas it is harder to start taking half a tablet a day rather than a whole one. And because it is possible to get to the end of the bottle after 60 days, patients have a date as a goal."

The kit, CITA suggests, could bring relief to some of the 3 million patients who are on tranquillisers. Dr Clark hit on his remedy while pondering if there could be a use for diluting an elixir rather than concentrating it. A letter that he wrote on the subject to *The Lancet* in 1989 raised correspondence between pharmacists concerned over the health and legal problems of individual patients diluting their own doses. Some pharmacists suggested a properly manufactured kit with simple instructions.

The kit is on trial in three Merseyside GP surgeries, including that of Dr Margaret Goddard. "We have new patients joining the practice, who've been on tranquillisers for years. We hope the main advantage will be almost imperceptible withdrawal symptoms."

"One disadvantage with the method is that the kit is quite bulky and the bottles (of tranquilliser and dilutant) are rather large to handle," Dr Goddard says. "Patients also have to be taught the principle and some might find that difficult at first. On the other hand, it is working quite well in my practice. Some patients are either off tranquillisers altogether or else down to a very low dose."

Dr David Reade, an Aintree GP with a special interest in CITA's work, has had positive feedback although he points out that the concoction "can taste nasty and that some patients find 60 days too short to give up the habit of a lifetime."

Dr Clark has introduced two longer courses of 100 and 120 days. He also points out that true success cannot be measured for two to three months after kicking the drug completely.

"Because tranquillisers can hang around the body after a patient has stopped taking them, it's still possible to have on-going withdrawal symptoms," he says. Diluting the medicine should also, Dr Reade adds, be accompanied by advice on coping with stress situations. But meanwhile, John, the Midlands businessman who drove 70 miles to see Dr Clark after hearing about his kit, believes an end to his problems is in sight. "Although I have slight withdrawal symptoms such as shaking, I feel I've got them under control."

One disadvantage, he says, is that even though the instructions are simple, they might still thwart unsteady addicts suffering severe shakes and anxiety attacks. His wife therefore oversees his daily doses. "Ever since I was first prescribed Librium by a friendly doctor who thought I was over-working, I've been a heap of pills. I've had every kind of side-effect including high fevers, dizziness and a cough that I thought would kill me. Now I've got a target date for getting off. To me, that's a lifeline."

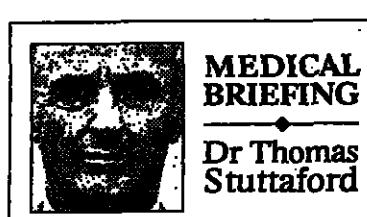
JANE BIDDER

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## Post-lymphoma president?

LAST week the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel opened a new 25-bedded ward designed for the special nursing needs of patients who have had a bone marrow transplant. This week the Democrat Paul Tsongas won the New Hampshire primary. The two events are not unconnected, for nine years ago Mr Tsongas underwent an autologous marrow transplant for the treatment of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer of the lymph glands and reticulo-endothelial (part of the body's immunological sense system).

When Mr Tsongas had this particular treatment for lymphoma it was still in its infancy, and indeed he must be among the world's longest known survivors. But now, if not common-



MEDICAL BRIEFING  
Dr Thomas Stuttford

place, it is standard therapy for those in whom the initial course of chemotherapy for lymphoma has been ineffective, or who have later relapsed. American medical opinion is divided as to whether Mr Tsongas is fit enough to run for the White House; but Tim Oliver, professor of oncology at the Royal London Hospital is

among the optimists. He said that, in his experience, if the patient had shown no signs of relapse within four years or so after treatment of a lymphoma they were likely to do well. Mr Tsongas has done so well, and is so fit, that his advisers arranged for him to strip down and be paraded in a swimming pool in order to demonstrate his athleticism, whereas of course the aides of his rival Governor Bill Clinton are only too anxious that their candidate should remain fully clothed as much as possible.

Lymphomas are divided into two broad groups: Hodgkin's disease, in which large multi-nucleated reticular cells (Reed-Sternberg cells) are found in the cancerous lymph glands; and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, where

these cells are absent. Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (Mr Tsongas's disease), which used to be known as lymphosarcoma and reticulo cell sarcoma, is the more common and as in his case it is usually found in the male. Again like Mr Tsongas, it is often found in those in their forties, but any age group can suffer.

Frequently the first signs of a lymphoma are enlarged glands in the neck or groin. Although at this stage the patient may feel well, on examination they are often found to be anaemic. The likelihood of successful treatment depends on the type of blood cell involved but Professor Oliver reckons that overall up to 60 per cent of his patients will have long-term cures.

hypothermia, more important statistically than the occasional dramatic case in which a patient is found near death in a freezing room. Accidental hypothermia may take days to develop, for once the body temperature falls to below 95 degrees Fahrenheit it continues to drop slowly and treacherously. In older patients the ability to notice cold, as well as their body's ability to adapt to it, is diminished. As the body's temperature falls, the abdominal wall, as well as the hands and feet, become cold to the touch. Infections, poor diet, immobility and a host of drugs ranging from beta blockers to tranquillisers predispose to hypothermia.

Age Concern emphasises four simple rules. If necessary, eat and sleep in one warm room; wear several layers of light clothing; take regular warm meals and hot drinks; keep out the cold by excluding drafts and damp.

## The grape escape

WHEN Gillian Shepherd, the Conservative party deputy chairman and treasury minister, addressed Conservatives in Marylebone, the hearth of the medical establishment, this week it was noticeable that doctors present did not seem to be too concerned about drinking Italian white wine. Nor should they be.



would have to drink 2,600 bottles, the result of a life-time of amending Conservative cheques and wine parties, before he suffered really serious ill-effects. A doctor from the poisons unit at Guy's Hospital, London, however, said that it was just possible that some particularly sensitive patient might suffer from gastro-intestinal inflammation, "an upset tummy," after having a bottle or so, as in higher concentrations MIT was known to be a

## Checks on the cold

THIS winter the East Midlands Electricity company, with the co-operation of Age Concern, has given 20,000 subscribers a small wall thermometer so that they may be warned if room temperature falls to dangerous levels. They have also issued a booklet which describes the hazards of hypothermia and gives hints on its avoidance.

The pattern in which the thermometer dial has been painted helps to dispel one of the misconceptions of hypothermia. Too often it is thought that hypothermia only occurs when the weather is near arctic, but the blue for danger, and cold, zone on the dial extends up to 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Evidence shows that long-term exposure of the elderly to chilly rooms is the most frequent cause of

## FOR WHEN YOUR GET-UP-AND-GO HAS GOT UP AND GONE



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# A luxury they cannot afford

Are market forces killing off the protected rents paid by long-term tenants? Rachel Kelly reports

The road to hell is paved with well-intentioned laws. One such law was the 1988 Housing Act. It was designed to get more rented accommodation on to the market, which it did, but behind the facade of many fine West London apartment blocks it has led to near-panic among long-standing tenants who face soaring rents as a side-effect of the legislation.

These tenants had become accustomed to their protected status under the 1977 Rent Act, another well-intentioned law, universally hailed as a good thing because it laid down the rules for establishing fair rents for those living in regulated tenancies.

Such tenants are protected by the Rent Act and their rents are decided by a rent officer. The rents are supposed to mirror market rates, although rent officers must disregard this element if the market has been influenced by scarcity. Landlords or tenants who disagree with their decisions can appeal to a rent assessment panel.

The 1988 Housing Act created the assured shorthold tenancy, under which a landlord could eject a tenant after six months. Such certainty gave many the confidence they needed to let property. As a result, the amount of rented property on the market increased.

In turn, this expansion meant rent officers had much more evidence of what rents were actually being charged, while landlords could compare the rents they were now getting on the open market, flushed by the end of regulation, to the rents they were getting from their regulated tenancies. Landlords started to apply for big rent increases, arguing that there was no general scarcity any more, so fair rents were effectively the same as market rents.

As landlords asked rent officers for higher amounts and the high rents in the free market were taken into account, the upward pressures mounted and the result has been steep rises for protected

tenants. Among the worst-hit are the gentfolk living in the numerous Edwardian mansion blocks of the London suburbs of Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster.

Dudley Fishburn, Conservative MP for Kensington, says: "Once a protected tenant has to pay open market rents, he stops being protected. He cannot be booted out; instead he is bankrupted out. This is not what the law intended."

A spokesman for the Department of the Environment says: "It is true that in some areas of London, and elsewhere in the country, fair-rent tenants have seen bigger rises since January 1989 than they have been accustomed to in the past. This reflects the artificial world created by years of regulation."

The DoE estimates that there are 180,000 protected tenants in London, with roughly 13,000 tenants apiece in the boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster.

St George's Court in Kensington is a typical large, red-brick mansion block of roomy flats with an impressive red-carpeted hall. The tenants of 24 flats

are protected by the Rent Act while the other 28 flats are let to employees of foreign companies. The block's inhabitants include Deidre Henty-Crier, the artist, and a retired journalist, Harry Morgan, who is also chairman of the St George's Court Residents' Association.

Mr Morgan has lived in a three-bedroom flat in the block for 20 years. He fears his rent will double. Last year, a rent officer fixed the figure at £5,000 a year, although the landlord, Pegasi Ltd, had requested a rent of £5,840. The landlord has appealed against the decision. Mr Morgan awaits the rent-assessment panel's decision with trepidation.

"I do not know the exact level that will be asked from me on appeal," he says. "But, taking the examples of what has already happened, I fear the landlord will want to up the rent to £10,500 a year."



Winter of discontent: Deidre Henty-Crier, who is one of many tenants facing an uncertain future in London's most select areas

Mr Morgan cites the case of a fellow inhabitant, Professor Tony West, aged 75, whose landlord originally wanted to increase the rent from £4,825 to £6,030. The rent officer disagreed and set a figure of £5,500. The landlord then appealed against this decision to a rent assessment panel hearing and also increased the amount being asked to £10,500. The case is still being considered.

"Such levels are designed to force us out," Mr Morgan says. "The landlord knows that many tenants can't pay and then he will let out the flats to foreign company employees at rents of £19,500 to £32,500 a year."

"What this means is that wealthy foreign landlords are buying up houses and blocks of flats where they feel they can greatly inflate the rent. While this may be commercially sound it means you drive out regular dwellers and fill the borough with transients."

Some might say that if tenants cannot afford the rents, that is their problem. Pegasi and other landlords are acting entirely within the law.

Adrian Bleakley, a spokesman for Pegasi, says: "This is a fairly political issue and journalists seem to specialise in beating the landlords. The fact that someone can have a five-room flat in South Kensington for £100 a week should be remembered. I think lots of people would jump at that opportunity."

Nor have any vast rent increases yet been agreed, Mr Bleakley says. "There is a lot of speculation about what rents might be, but nothing has been finalised. This is an ongoing process of rent registration."

Rents are negotiated on a two-yearly cycle rather than every year, Mr Bleakley adds, and, any increases should be judged with that in mind.

The distressed inhabitants of St George's says that these are not simply market rents but have been distorted by the ability of foreign tenants to pay far higher amounts than locals can.

"The market is cruelly distorted," Mr Fishburn says. "At a time of 4 per cent inflation, rent increases of up to 50 per cent are becoming more and more common throughout Kensington. These high demands reflect the boom days of yesterday, not today's recession. Nor is it reasonable to compare company lets with what private individuals can afford," the MP adds.

On the other hand, the DoE says there is "considerable anecdotal evidence that market rents in London are now falling back a little, having peaked last year in the first flush of deregulation. Rent officers know this and will reflect it

when registration next becomes due." However, the department confirms that there has been "a rapid decline in the number of regulated tenancies" in London, although it adds that not all new tenants are foreigners.

"Of course having a leavening of people from abroad is a good thing," Professor West says. "But it's different when there are no local people left."

Already, he says, local businesses such as the plumber across the road and the local supermarket have had to close down as the local population has dwindled.

"It's like the Highland Clearances of the 1700s," Mr Morgan comments.

"The transient population has no interest in the future of the city or feeling of pride in their country," Professor West adds.

"They are creatures of fashion. One year it's London, the next it will be Frankfurt or Paris."

Is it a fly? No, it's a robot

Britain leads the world in the testing of construction robots

THE slump in the building trade has led to a greater interest in developing robots to do tasks more cheaply, safely and quickly than man. The Building Research Establishment (BRE), the principal organisation in the country carrying out research into building and construction, has put its weight behind research into construction robots.

At the BRE's 77-acre base in north London research is being done on robots that will scale skyscrapers, inspect their walls, level floors and dig continuous tunnels in soft ground to a preset depth. The BRE has just become the home of the International Association for Automation and Robotics in Construction, which was set up last year. It will distribute information on robotic developments and coordinate research from around the world.

French scientists have developed robots which can inspect vertical surfaces; the Commonwealth of Independent States has a robot which can paint buildings; and the Flims has a robot which can caulk the walls.

"Robots have many advantages in construction," says Melville Pountney, of the association. "For example, they will be able to climb high buildings which is far safer than the current method of abseiling."

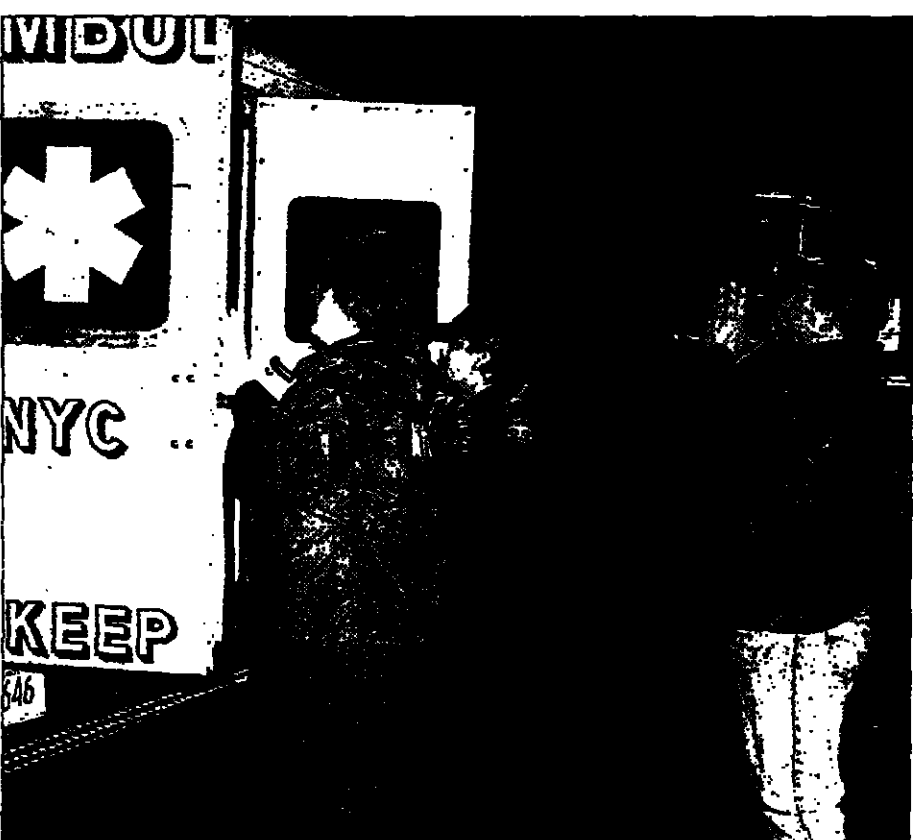
Portsmouth Polytechnic has already developed a robot which climbs up vertical walls like an insect.

Because the machines have to support their own weight on vacuum suckers they need a constant power supply and a back-up rope in case of failure.

The BRE is developing a robot which will determine the state of repair of a tower block. "The Portsmouth robot is better at getting about, but our one will be better at collecting information," Mr Pountney says. "The ideal will be putting the two together."

"Robots will take the drudge out of building," he adds. "Human builders will be upgraded into skilled operatives who can work with the robots."

R.K.



As it happens: a scene from a BBC 40 Minutes programme on America's video culture

David Lloyd on how television current affairs programmes could recapture their old bite

## Telling tales

At first sight, the omens for current affairs programmes over the next decade are none too promising. On ITV, current affairs would seem to be fighting for its very existence, while the BBC's output is judged to lack enterprise and impact.

At Channel 4 there is confidence, but no certainty, that an ambitious programme mix can survive the pressures of a truly competitive advertising market.

This threat to current affairs programmes is brought about, I believe, not so much by the new Broadcasting Act — however unwanted and unwarranted that Act may be — or by political sabre-rattling over the BBC's charter, but by the inability of much of current affairs to move with the times.

The agenda-setting quality that was once the prerogative of the traditional flagships — *Panorama*, *This Week*, *World In Action* — has been largely usurped by the news programmes. Today's television news has a power and versatility undreamt of even a

decade ago, it commands an increasing share of resources and it has the appearance, at least, of rendering much of current affairs obsolete. For is that not the very skill of the news journalist — to cover in three minutes what might take others 30?

But let us be clear what modern news magazines can, and cannot, achieve. Even at the BBC, where news broadcasting has improved spectacularly in the past five years, the effect has been to deepen coverage over a given range of stories rather than to widen the range itself. The shift in the balance between news and current affairs has been particularly visible here, where the merging of the two departments would seem to have taken place largely to the detriment of current affairs.

At ITV, and the particular circumstances of the franchise round, one can hardly blame an editor for choosing to

produce a programme on breast implants rather than Yugoslavia, but one has to wonder whether such preferences will, of themselves, guarantee the long-term survival of current affairs.

Two prescriptions suggest themselves. The first would change the basis on which these programmes are commissioned, in an attempt to restore them to the focus of interest. Such an approach would disband the "in house" teams that make them; however gifted, they provide too narrow a reservoir of ideas to meet the challenge.

The programmes should then be opened to the full diversity of the freelance and independent production sectors, boosting the ambition and impact of the stories covered and tapping a culture that fully matches that of the news journalist.

This is a model which has been followed, I like to think to some effect, by Channel 4's *Dispatches*.

The second prescription must be to exchange old formats for new. Here the BBC can point to new programmes like *Public Eye* and *Assignment* as evidence that this is precisely the road that they have decided to travel. But even after two or three seasons, these programmes still feel as if they're prompted by a distinct Broadcasting House plan than by a need to discover a wholly new genre of current affairs.

At Channel 4 we have tried, modestly to date, to enter this arena, with last autumn's "on air" pilot programmes under the *4-Thought* banner. What the season demonstrated, in my view, was that it is possible to find new frames of reference for such programmes. Indeed, to judge by my correspondence, there is a real

appetite for a new generation of current affairs.

One can go further: there is a palpable ennui with programmes which ask the same old questions over and over again, while glossing over others; which fail to make newly dynamic connections between current events or areas of policy; and which fail to admit a wider range of ideas than can ever be glimpsed in a news bulletin. Some of the *4-Thought* pilots will be seen in more substantial series later this year. Beyond that, at the very least a spark has been lit which dare we hope — will ignite other channels.

So when, in a few weeks, you see Paddy Ashdown asked, for the umpteenth time in the umpteenth news bulletin, which party in the event of a hung parliament... well, you know the rest... say a prayer for the survival of imaginative, inquisitive current affairs.

● The author is Senior Commissioning Editor, News and Current Affairs, for Channel 4.

## The End of History debate

The author Francis Fukuyama has set the scene. In 1989 he said that a liberal democracy will be the only viable political system in a post-ideological world. Provocative enough. Now, in his new book, *The End of History and the Last Man* to be published here on March 5 by Hamish Hamilton, he has expanded his thoughts. Is he right? Is this the sort of future we really face? *The Times* has invited

Francis Fukuyama to qualify his views at a testing debate. The End of History debate, at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, on Thursday March 5, starting at 7.30pm.

The chairman will be Simon Jenkins, the editor of *The Times*. The speakers will include Norman Stone, Professor of Modern History, Oxford; Roger Scruton, Professor of Aesthetics, London; Ernest Gellner,

Professor of Social Anthropology, Cambridge; and Tessa Blackstone, Master of Birkbeck College and front-bench Labour peer. ● Tickets for the debate cost £10 (£5 for students). To get your tickets, call today at Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ (071-580 3243; fax 071-580 7680), or complete the coupon below and post it to Dillons, marking on the envelope "Fukuyama Debate".

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## All the news that fits London

The capital's viewers are being promised local coverage of international quality

LOCAL television news in London and the southeast has long been regarded by some viewers as a second-class operation with second-rate resources. The best talent, so the feeling goes, disappears to find fame covering national and international news for the BBC and ITN.

But come next January, viewers in the capital will be in for a surprise. The two new London ITV licences have promised that bulletins will be slick and hard-hitting, with big name presenters and specialist correspondents to rival the likes of ITN's *News At Ten* and the BBC's *Nine O'Clock News*.

London Weekend Television and Carlton Television, which ousted Thames in last October's blind bid ITV auction, have formed a joint company to produce a seven-day-a-week news operation in London. The companies promise "strong, intriguing, lively and dramatic stories" with "glamorous and authoritative presentation" to enhance the status of the region's news output.

Local London news providers have often lost their best stories to ITN or the BBC, which tend, not surprisingly, to treat strong London stories as national news. Scheduling has also meant that a local bulletin is forced to ignore stories important to Londoners or

risk appearing a pale imitation of the main network news which has preceded it.

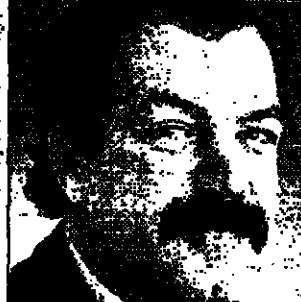
"News in the capital need no longer be the poor relation to national and international news," says Paul Corley, Carlton's controller of factual programmes. "There are many stories specific to London that don't make the national bulletins or get the attention and analysis many Londoners want. There will always be some duplication of output, but there is no reason why local London bulletins cannot go much further than the national news."

But Robin Paxton, LWT's controller of current affairs, believes there is no solution to the duplication problem other than to lump together local, regional, national and international news in a single programme. "Few things anger the viewer more than seeing stories repeated; one can tart up a story

but at the end of the day it is duplication. If you let ITN cover all London stories, then ultimately the local news will be parochial. The solution has to be a single news service giving Londoners all the news, local and national, with a London perspective."

Carlton and LWT, which signed the joint venture deal on Wednesday after months of negotiations, admit they have not yet agreed on how best to avoid the repetition problem. Mr Corley is thinking of a news hour between 5.30pm and 6.30pm incorporating ITN's *News At 5.40*, but Mr Paxton thinks the ITN bulletin should be rescheduled earlier, so that by 6.30pm "a new audience would be available for a programme with ITN reports repackaged for the London audience."

But if the scheduling and the content is not yet entirely agreed, what is clear is that far more



Clive Jones: to head service

money will be freed to fund an improved local news service, given the economies of scale to be achieved by sharing a single news room, facilities and staff.

Thames and LWT now provide separate news services. Money spent keeping two teams and two studios going will now be spent on news-gathering, with Carlton and LWT splitting the £10 million annual bill 70:30. The joint company will also share resources with Sunrise, the new breakfast licence in which Carlton and LWT both hold 20 per cent stakes. Staff of London News, its provisional name, will number about 100, and specialist correspondents will be hired for the first time to provide investigative and analytical feature coverage. More crews will be put on the road, while an emphasis will be placed on creating names and personalities to rival the likes of Julia Somerville or Trevor McDonald.

"Pooling the resources of two of the largest licences in ITV means we will be able to offer viewers the best presenters, reporters and editors," says Clive Jones, head of regional programmes at TVS, who takes over as the joint company's new managing director. "We will provide the news service London deserves."

MELINDA WITTSTOCK



# Major blamed for causing recession

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

NEIL Kinnock greeted yesterday's official figures confirming the longest recession since the 1930s and a 2.5 per cent drop in GDP last year by accusing John Major of being "not only the prime minister of recession but the prime cause of recession".

Accusing him of "groping around" to find excuses for failure, Mr Kinnock repeated what he was seeking to make a campaign slogan: "Majorism isn't working".

With opinion polls showing that only 9 per cent of people blame the Major government for recession, Labour is losing no opportunity to point out that the prime minister was Chancellor when the recession began.

In bitter Commons question time exchanges, Mr Major insisted that not just Britain but the world was suffering from economic slowdown. He claimed that the right circumstances for recovery were in place, with lower interest rates, lower mortgage rates and lower inflation. And he said: "The people of the country won't let you throw that away."

Earlier, cabinet ministers urged Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to press ahead with tax cuts as Mr Lamont reported on the Budget background. The mood was said to be one of "realism" as he reminded them that under the autumn statement provisions, some £7 billion extra of public spending would begin on April 1.

Ministers were understood to have taken the view that the

markets would accept an increase in public borrowing to more than £20 billion to facilitate tax cuts. Officially the cabinet was said to have endorsed the options set out by the Chancellor.

Earlier Tony Newton, the social services secretary, and Mr Lamont, bitterly attacked Labour's plans for an extension of taxation on savings, arguing that they would hit those who had retired early, those who had been made redundant and widows dependent on the income from insurance payouts.

Mr Newton accused Labour of launching "an old-fashioned class war against an ever-growing army of savers and inheritors". Mr Lamont said: "We can do without Labour's pickpocket National Insurance tax. And we can do without their envy tax on savings."

Mr Lamont said that Labour's planned 9 per cent tax on savings incomes above £3,000 a year would hit 1.1 million non-pensioner taxpayers, 750,000 of them on the basic rate. Many would have incomes less than £21,000 a year, breaking Mr Kinnock's pledge that nobody below that level would face a tax increase. Mr Newton said that 750,000 basic rate taxpayers, mostly those who had retired early, would lose an average of £5.40 a week. Another 360,000 higher rate taxpayers would lose an average of £34 a week.

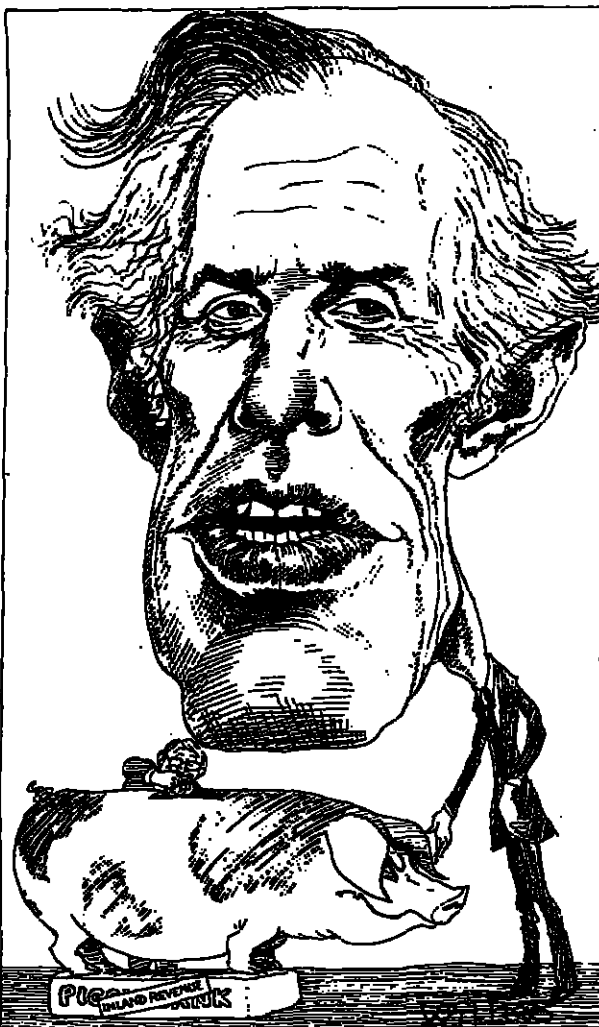
In the Commons Mr Kinnock recalled Mr Major saying a year ago that "our

policies are working", adding that since then the British economy had contracted by 2.5 per cent and unemployment had risen by 750,000.

With Labour denying government claims of a world recession, the prime minister countered that between 1981 and 1991 the British economy had grown faster than the economies of all the other European countries. "Taking the last year as a whole, industrial production fell more in Japan and more in Germany, than in the UK. Why do you think that is, if you blame me for everything?"

John Smith, the shadow chancellor, said: "Today's figures reveal that 1990-1 has been the worst single year of recession since the 1930s. These figures are proof positive of the unacceptable price of Conservative economic mismanagement."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said: "Our economy is in a mess because the government has created the second recession in a decade. New figures on growth show that recovery is as far away as ever."



Raising the alarm: Tony Newton highlights Labour's plans to tax savings above £3,000

## Minister alerted to drug risks

By PETER MULLIGAN

ALARM at the dangers from the drug "Ecstasy" reached the Commons yesterday as ministers were urged to take action to stop its spread.

John Patten, Home Office minister of state, acknowledged that Ecstasy can kill by causing lung failure, and said there was evidence linking it to psychotic problems. There were five deaths last year.

He said the drug mostly came from abroad after successes by the UK police who had closed down four manufacturers. Under pressure from Labour to justify the decision to cut 400 customs officers' jobs, he told MPs there had been record seizures of Ecstasy this year.

Mr Patten said a new European-wide drugs intelligence unit would lead to closer police links, while 17 drug prevention teams were in place in areas where Ecstasy and other drugs were used in large amounts.

Mr Patten promised to consider another backbench suggestion that warnings of penalties for drug offences should be handed to passengers on incoming airlines.

## Poll date likely to limit Budget debate

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TORY strategists and MPs expect John Major to announce the date of the general election on Thursday, March 12, two days after the Budget.

With Westminster now unanimous in the belief that the election will be on April 9, Mr Major is believed likely to make the formal announcement after the cabinet meeting on March 12.

Nothing is firmly fixed, but under provisional plans being discussed by strategists the Commons would then be told on Thursday afternoon that the Budget debate, which by then would have been running for two days, was being curtailed.

Votes would take place that day on the key Budget resolutions governing collection of taxes, excise duties, and the continuation of tax relief on mortgage interest. The government will also want a vote on any tax cuts made in the Budget to highlight the main philosophical difference between the two main parties. Labour is committed to reversing cuts in the basic rate.

The Finance Bill implementing the Budget would be pushed through in one day,

on the Friday, after a guillotine motion limiting debate. The Conservative central council in Torquay and the Labour Scottish conference in Edinburgh will give Mr Major and Neil Kinnock the chance to send their parties into battle. The Commons would then be prorogued on the Monday, March 16, the last possible day to enable the statutory minimum election campaign period.

Labour leaders are predicting chaos over parliamentary business because of the government's decision to have the Budget on March 10 rather than March 3, which they say would have allowed a more orderly dissolution of Parliament. There will be claims of "constitutional outrage" over the shortening of the Budget debate and the rushing through of the Finance Bill.

John MacGregor, the Commons leader, stonewalled yesterday when his Labour shadow John Cunningham demanded an assurance that the Budget demanded would not be truncated in the event of an April 9 election.



## Labour to replace secrets act

A Labour government will introduce a right to information act in its first year, Roy Hattersley said yesterday. The legislation has already been drawn up.

Speaking at a newspaper awards presentation in London, Mr Hattersley said the bill was based on the principle that all public information must be freely available unless it could be shown to be detrimental to the security of the state or the welfare of private individuals. It would replace the Official Secrets Act.

## New sentences

Since February 1989, when the law was changed, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney-general, has referred 69 cases to the Court of Appeal because he thought the sentence too lenient. In 36 cases already dealt with, the sentence was increased; in ten it was unchanged. Seven were withdrawn.

## Europe's price

Each person will pay about £21 towards the EC budget this financial year, the Treasury estimates. Next year, according to a written answer from Francis Maude, the financial secretary, the net contribution will be about £50 a person.

## 44,000 in jail

The average prison population in England and Wales last year was 44,808, Angela Rumbold, a Home Office minister, said in a written reply.

## Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private member's bill: Referendum Bill, second reading.  
Lords (11): Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Bill and Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) (No 2) Bill, second readings.

## The Westminster week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:  
Monday: Motion to renew prevention of terrorism act.  
Tuesday: Local Government Bill, remaining stages.  
Wednesday: Debate on inflation on a government motion.  
Thursday: Debate on Welsh affairs.  
Friday: Private member's motion on the registration of MPs' interests.  
The main business in the

## Millions overpaid on defence contracts

By SHEILA GUNN  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DEFENCE officials were criticised by the government's financial watchdog yesterday for overpaying contractors more than £166 million.

Although the sums were eventually recovered, the National Audit Office pointed out that the Treasury lost hundreds of thousands of pounds in interest through delays.

Sir John Bourn, the head of the audit office, called for a higher priority for improving the system of handling defence payments totalling about £24 billion a year.

The Commons public accounts committee, working on the findings of the audit office, rebuked the defence ministry for poor planning and security of new computer systems. The MPs said they were particularly concerned about the waste of £6 million on the Landscape system, which the ministry's permanent secretary, Sir Michael Quinlan, had admitted was "a sorry tale". The technology for land systems controls was started in 1984 but cancelled in 1990 because it did not fulfil the ministry's needs.

After examining the ministry's £1.5 billion information technology programmes, the committee said the cost of the learning process was sometimes "unacceptably high".

The threat of "hacking" into defence computers also alarmed MPs who called for a unified security agency to be set up as a matter of urgency.

The report said: "We enquired about the question of hacking since a whole system could be thrown into disarray if people were able to achieve access to it... The department confirmed that they were very concerned... They told us that there were government-wide arrangements for disseminating knowledge and best computer security practice."

National Audit Office: financial control over payments by the Ministry of Defence (Stationery Office £7.80)  
Commons public accounts committee 13th report — Ministry of Defence: support information technology (Stationery Office £7.90)

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Audioline 912/5 telephone answering machine.....	was £79.99	NOW £59.99.
Yamaha PSR3 keyboard.....	was £109.99	NOW £79.99.
Tecnolec T123 microwave.....	was £124.99	NOW £93.74.
Goodmans GMS120 CD midi Hi-Fi.....	was £159.99	NOW £119.99.
Ariston 230 fridge/freezer.....	was £239.99	NOW £179.99.
Ariston E55 electric cooker.....	was £249.99	NOW £187.49.
Ferguson FV51R video recorder.....	was £319.99	NOW £239.99.
Aiwa NSXD3 mini Hi-Fi system.....	was £359.99	NOW £269.99.
Indesit 1190 autowasher.....	was £379.99	NOW £279.99.
Amstrad 9600AT fax.....	was £399.99	NOW £299.99.
Ferguson A51F 21" (51cm) Fastest colour television.....	was £399.99	NOW £299.99.
Ariston 1247 washer/dryer.....	was £499.99	NOW £369.99.
Top Brand camcorders.....	were £799.99	NOW £599.99.

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# Ablaze with colour

## ARCHITECTURE

**Marcus Binney**  
talks to the  
architects of a  
French fire station  
that proves  
modernist  
architecture need  
not be drab

Is this a building, a painting or a piece of sculpture, you ask, as you turn the corner to see the astonishingly colourful new fire station in the sedate Parisian suburb of Choisy-le-Roi.

The white tower, flecked with a random pattern of red and blue shapes is like a painting by Jean Miro, or an immensely smart Chanel scarf.

It's a homage to the dangerous work the sapeurs-pompiers do, explains Daniel Auger of the architects, Studio David. "It's intended to suggest an explosion, a catastrophe, an earthquake."

Look closely and the coloured patches at the top are smaller, like scaffolding poles and other debris flying through the air. Below, the splashes of colour increase in size until they become a solid mass of boulders like a landslide.

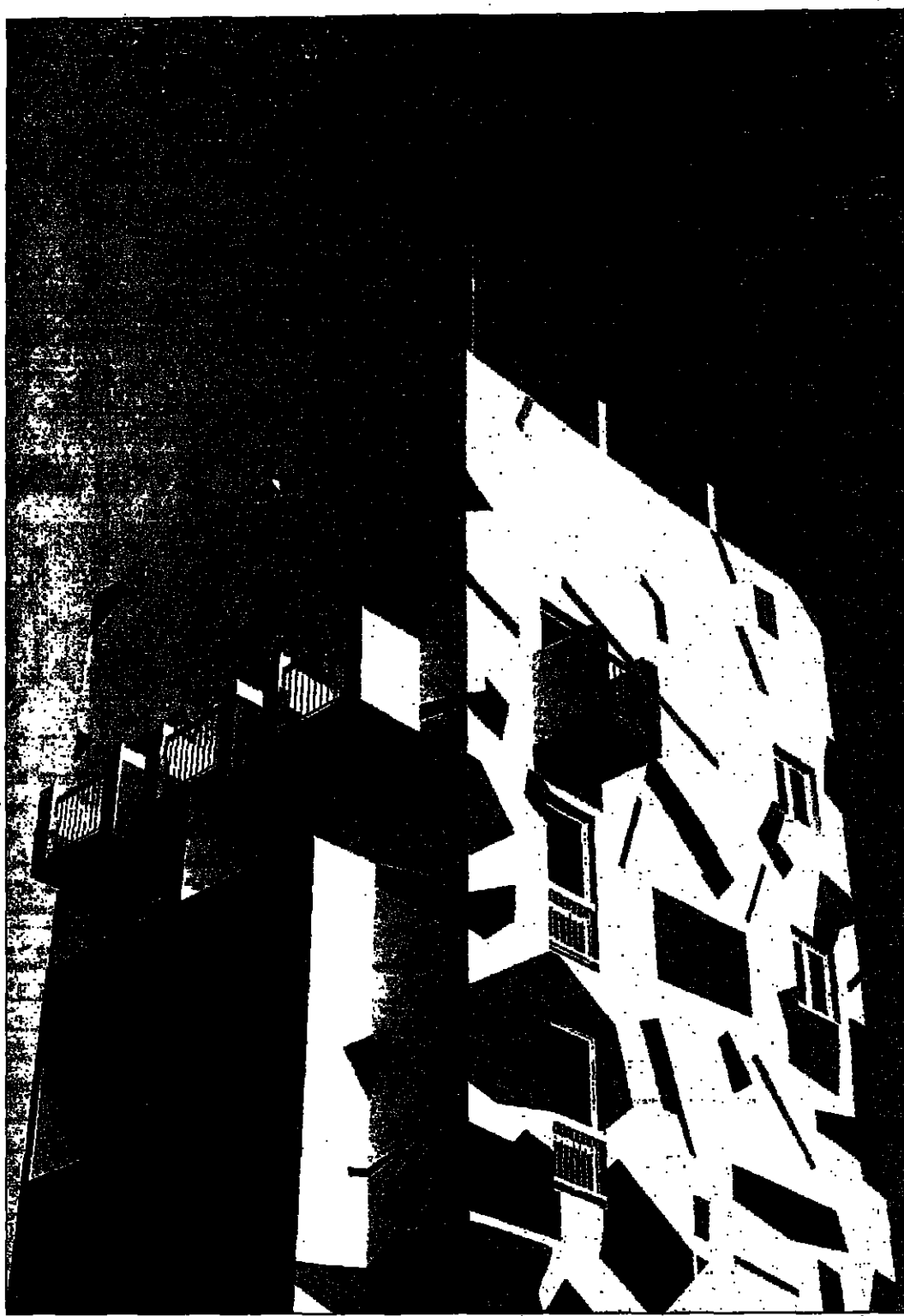
The sculptural element comes from the simple, powerfully expressed volumes, all smooth cubes and rectangles without an overhanging sill or eave to be seen. The tower is set diagonally to provide a forceful counterpoint.

The lower buildings contain the garages for the fire engines, the offices, and the lodgings for the firemen. These are entirely clad in tiles, laid in a grid as strict as a canvas by Mondrian.

Once again the architects have used the red and blue livery of the Paris fire brigade. But the colour is bright enough to make your eyes jump, with two clashing reds set against an inky blue and a pale grey. Individual features such as windows are picked out with a band of tiles in contrasting colours.

Jean Luc Le Petit, the architect in charge of the project explains: "It's intended to be a landmark to the town, signalling to all the reassuring presence of the firemen."

Internally, the tower is equipped to simulate every hazard the firemen will meet: smoke, fumes, flames. "We could not use tiles on the tower. They would have flaked



Bright enough to make your eyes jump: the new fire station at Choisy-le-Roi

off in the intense heat. By contrast the painted walls can be retouched at will," says Le Petit. So far not a single single mark is to be seen.

The Choisy-le-Roi fire station suggests a brilliant means of smartening up an endless series of drab and dingy modern buildings. Almost every town will have its own candidate for treatment: a

school, perhaps, a shopping precinct, a block of offices or a hotel. Glazed tiles acquired a bad name because they were so often used in dingy stairwells and never seemed clean. In most people's minds they are associated with the most utilitarian kind of public loo.

But now a much wider range of colours is available, suitable for outdoor use. It is often forgotten that many early modern movement buildings were painted to give them a freshness stained concrete can never have. With modern paints and sprays, a wall can be transformed in hours. Studio David has shown the way to give every town a new landmark.

## Music of the spheres?

LONG before western musicians such as George Harrison and Kate Bush discovered Balkan folk music, one Bulgarian folk song had already reached a different sort of star.

Presented as "Shepherdess Song", it was included in the "sounds and images from the earth" message to other civilisations, recorded on golden discs which were sent into space with the Voyager spacecraft launched from Cape Canaveral in the 1970s.

The performer of the song, Valya Balkanska, a renowned folk singer from the Rhodope mountains in southern Bulgaria, is currently working on a new record entitled *Alone into the stars*.

As well as "Shepherdess Song", Balkanska, known in her own country as "Delya, the rebel", has included 15 folk songs from the Rhodope region. All of them are authentic just as she learnt them from old people in the mountains.

Balkanska says: "People often come up to me and ask 'Have you heard this song?' They bring me their songs because they know I will sing them without alterations, just with a bagpipe."

By tradition which reflects ancient belief, the people of the Rhodope consider their mountains to be the birthplace of Orpheus. "My childhood there was like a song itself," Balkanska recalls.

"My mother and grandmother sang, my father played the bagpipes. My mother would sing one song as we threaded tobacco leaves, another while we threshed maize or learned how to spin. Wherever people got together, they would sing and I remembered every single song."

The space odyssey of Valya Balkanska was the biggest surprise of her life. She had no idea that one of her songs had been selected to present the sounds of the Earth, along with music by composers such as Bach.

When the *Cosmos* series, by the renowned American astronomer Carl Sagan, was first shown on television, friends of hers were astonished to hear her singing as a musical background to Sagan's commentary on the mission of the Voyager spacecraft.

Later she found that American folk singers had attended some of the Bulgarian folk festivals, where they had made recordings of her performing her songs. Balkanska believes her "Shepherdess Song" may have been selected because it expresses loneliness at being left behind.

THEODOR TROEV

Richard Mayne finds a new generation of Italian film-makers bent on having fun

## Playful sons of Mamma Roma

A New Wave of shock troops is conquering Italian movies. While the old guard soldiers on and the middle-aged infantry still marches, the new élite corps has all the dash and bravura of sophisticated youth.

At first sight, 1992 looks like a vintage year for veterans. The doyen of them all, 77 in May, is Mario Monicelli, still best remembered for *I Soliti Ignoti* (*Persons Unknown*, 1958), in which Vittorio Gassman led a downish band of burglars on a farcical jewel heist that yielded only peas and pasta. Although honoured at Venice last September with a Golden Lion for his lifetime's achievement, Monicelli still has two new films on the stocks. His near-contemporary Dino Risi, 75, has one; and so have Federico Fellini, 72, and Francesco Rosi, 69. In the next, intermediate generation of directors over 50, new films are also due from Pupi Avati, Marco Bellocchio, Liliana Cavani, Ermanno Olmi, and the Taviani brothers, Paolo and Vittorio.

Scanning that roster, fans of Italian films might be forgiven a stifled yawn. Monicelli's new offerings, *Parenti e Serpenti* (*Parents and Serpents*) and *Viva i Bambini* (*Long Live the Children*), may have obvious youth appeal; but will Dino Risi's *La Sposa di Cristo* (*The Bride of Christ*)? Has Fellini anything new to tell us about *Il Mestiere dell'attore* (*The Actor's Profession*)? And, however tough and workmanlike, what will Rosi make of his screen adaptation of a novel, Primo Levi's *La Tregua* (*The Truce*)?

The recent record of Italy's middle-aged directors, moreover, has been poor. Pupi Avati's last film, *Bix*, on Bix Beiderbecke, was neither a successful biography nor a satisfying jazz film. Marco Bellocchio's *La Condanna* (*The Conviction*), although visually dazzling, failed to deal adequately with its highly topical theme of whether a rape had been committed. Liliana Cavani's *Francesco*, meanwhile, was frankly embarrassing — in part because it cast Mickey Rourke as a cute, winsome, cajoled St Francis of Assisi. Her new film, *Dove siete? Io sono qui* (*Where are you? I'm here*) at least has the more modest subject of two deaf lovers.

Ermanno Olmi is another director whose later work has been

disappointing. Hailed 30 years ago as an heir to postwar neo-realism with small, intent films like *Il Posto* (*The Job*) or *I Fidanzati* (*The Fiancés*), he seems to have turned — after a severe illness — to baroque or abstruse preoccupations. In *Lunga Vita alla Signora* (*Long Live the Lady*), about a stately, plutocratic matriarch, or in the quasi-mystical *La Leggenda del Santo Bevitore* (*The Legend of the Holy Drinker*), he virtually abandoned the close, naturalistic observation that had once been his strength. His next film, indeed, will be a fairy-tale — *Il Segreto del Bosco Vecchio* (*The Secret of the Ancient Wood*).

Finally, the Taviani brothers, whose new project is simply and hopefully entitled *Oro* (*Gold*), seemed equally astray when they forsook contemporary reality for costume drama in *Il Sole anche di Notte* (*Night Sun*), with the British actor Julian Sands, dubbed, manfully impersonating Leo Tolstoy's Father Sergey, on whose story the film was based.

Altogether, in fact, a certain wayward opulence seems to have been blurring the sharp gaze that some Italian directors used to focus on the world around them. But all is not lost. A bright new generation of film-makers is emerging in Italy. Their eyes are keen, their heads cool, their voices clear and curt.

Many of them are the street-smart products of the film schools. Most are in their thirties — young enough to have studied, reassured, outgrown and yet absorbed the lessons of the neo-realist past. At least two are the children of film professionals. Several are close friends and have appeared in each other's pictures. Italian critics have labelled them the New Italian Cinema movement. I asked one of them: is it really a cohesive group?

"It's not close-knit or united, a coterie of intellectuals meeting in cafés to discuss cinematic art. But there is certainly a New Italian Cinema — a new generation of young directors making films. Whether it's a 'Renaissance' you'll have to judge for yourself."

The speaker was the youngest of the movement's members, Daniele Luchetti, 32 this year. Unassuming, compact, and cheerful, with dark hair, metal-framed



Comedy of corruption: Silvio Orlando (left) as the speechwriter in *Il Portaborse*, with Giulio Brogi

spectacles, and a ready smile, he was in Rimini, rehearsing a stage comedy about teachers, *Sotto banco* (*Sub rosa* or perhaps *Under the counter*), which he plans to take on tour. But this spring he will be making another movie. Although so far it lacks a title, Luchetti sees it as a social comedy mocking Italian justice. Its setting is near Vesuvius. The explosive location seems apt.

Last year, already, Luchetti caused a political eruption — and scored a smash hit in France and Italy — with another satirical comedy, *Il Portaborse* (to be called *The Footman* but literally *The Briefcase Carrier*). It was only his third full-length film.

The briefcase carrier of the title (played by Silvio Orlando) is a Southern Italian schoolmaster, first seen in his crumbling family house trying to make ends meet by ghostwriting for a novelist ruined by drink. News of his skill spreads to Rome, and he is hired to concoct speeches for a Minister in a "progressive" Government. Awed and flattered, he soon finds that the corridors of power are also the purloins of corruption. No wonder the Socialist party protested. No wonder State television refused finance. No wonder the public

flocked to the film. It made seven billion lire in Italy alone.

Yet its implied moral was more subversive still. Although the Minister in the film brooks a computer expert to rig the ballot, no such fraud is needed. The public is so glib that it gives him a landslide vote.

With Nanni Moretti playing the Minister, this was natural enough. Tall, thin, bearded and sweetly handsome, with only wary eyes to betray him, he looked plausible enough to fool even himself.

Three years ago, Moretti, who is a producer and director within the New Italian Cinema group as well as an actor, also raised political hackles with *Palombella Rossa* (*Red Woodpigeon*), depicting the decline of the Communist Party in terms of water-polo.

Such playfulness is characteristic. Who, I asked Daniele Luchetti, were the older directors he most revered? "Obviously Fellini. Obviously Vittorio De Sica: it's his humanity I admire. Roberto Rossellini tried to capture reality directly; but De Sica and his script-writer Cesare Zavattini filtered it through their own sensibility. I prefer their magic neo-

realism, which leaves room for fantasy." In *Il Portaborse*, one surreal scene unearths 500 years of dubious ballot papers. The moment is worthy of De Sica's *Miracle in Milan*.

Not all the group's films, of course, are flippant. Marco Risi's *Muro di Gomma* (*Wall of Silence*) made lethal fun of Italian military bigwigs, but its grim subject was the apparent cover-up of the 1980 Ustica airliner crash. And Ricky Tognazzi's *Ultim' (Ultimas)*, although exuberant, was a horrifying study of football hooligans.

Broadly, however, the new mood is at most sardonic and at its lightest rueful and amused. Take Sergio Rubini's wistful triangle drama, *La Stazione* (*The Station*). Take two films by Francesca Archibugi: *Mignon è partita* (*Mignon has left*), about adolescence, and *Verso Sera* (*Nighfall*), with Marcello Mastroianni, both lamenting and accepting old age. Above all, look out for Giuseppe Piccioni's *Chiedi la Luna* (*Ask for the Moon*), an enchanting "road" movie.

All these directors, as well as Moretti, have new films in the pipeline. At this rate, 1992 will be a vintage year for Italian vitality as well as for veterans and VFPs.

## AMSTERDAM

**REMBRANDT — THE MASTER AND HIS WORKSHOP:** The first large-scale exhibition devoted to Rembrandt for over 20 years, comprising 47 of the master's paintings spanning his whole career, shown together with 30 works by his pupils and followers. Rijksmuseum, Stadhouderskade 42. Tel: (31 20) 6732121. Until Mar 1.

## BERLIN

**SCHLUSSCHÖR:** Luc Bondy's compelling production of Botho Strauss's new drama on German reunification, powerfully acted (notably Jutta Lampe). Schauspiel am Lehriner Platz, Kurfürstendamm 153. Tel: (49 30) 890023. Feb 21, 26, 27.

## COLOGNE

**THE POP ART SHOW:** The biggest survey of the Pop Art movement for over 20 years, displaying works principally from London and New York. Images from the Fifties and Sixties by Paolozzi, Blake and Hockney all alongside their American counterparts: Warhol, Johns and Oldenburg. Museum Ludwig, Bachstrasse 1. Tel: (49 221) 2212879. Until Apr 20.

## DUSSELDORF

**ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE:** Black-and-white photographs featuring parts of the body, flowers, portraits and self-portraits. Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Grabbeplatz 4. Tel: (49 211) 327023. Until Mar 22.

## HAMBURG

**DIE EROBERUNG VON MEXICO:** Wolfgang Hilmer's challenging new opera on the conquest of Mexico, produced by Peter Musbach and conducted by Ingo Metzmacher. Hamburgische Staatsoper, Grosse Theaterstrasse 34. Tel: (49 40) 351721. Feb 22, Mar 3, 7.

## MILAN

**MAISON LESCAUT:** Puccini's four-act opera set in 18th century France and America. Lorin Maazel shares the baton with Armando Gatto. The cast includes Maria Guleghina, Adriana Morelli, Giuseppe Giacomini, Peter Dvornak, Federico Kail, Gino Quilico and Mario Bolognesi. Teatro alla Scala, Via

Filodrammatico 2. Tel: (39 2) 72003744. Feb 25, 26, Mar 4-6, 10, 19, 20, 21.

## PARIS

**THE MARSEILLES TRILOGY:** Marcel Pagnol's trilogy of plays from the Thirties — *Marius*, *Fanny* and *César* — edited into a compact three-hour play, directed by Jean-Paul Belmondo. Good character performances although some of the pace and rhythm has been sacrificed. Théâtre des Variétés, 7 bd Montmartre (33 1) 4233092. Weekly Tues-Sat, mat & ev.

**RENE LALIQUE:** Retrospective of the Art-Nouveau artist, including works in glass, fabrics, sketches and pieces of jewellery. Musée des Arts Décoratifs, rue de Rivoli 107. Tel: (33 1) 42603214. Until Mar 8.

## STOCKHOLM

**CARL LARSSON:** By far the best-loved artist in Sweden, Larsson's sunny and stylised portraits of home life and family bliss have maintained their popularity for 100 years. This new assemblage of his work is the most comprehensive showing for over 40 years, comprising 380 works. Moderna Museet, S. Blasieholmsgatan 1. Tel: (46 8) 664250. Until May 10.

## TURIN

**EXHIBITION OF AMERICAN ART 1930-1970:** The first extensive European study of American art featuring works by "Triumvir" painters Grant Wood and Thomas Hart Benton, together with those of the "Social Realists" Ben Shahn, William Gropper and Edward Hopper. More than 180 works are displayed. Fiat Lingotto Factory, Turin. Tel: (39 11) 6967131. Until Mar 31.

## VENICE

**CARNIVAL:** Traditional event transforming the city into a magical stage of colourful figures and costumes. Information: (39 41) 5255721. Until Mar 4.

**POREY AND BESS:** Henry Lewis conducts Gerhart's opera, starring Willard White, Mervyn Horder, Cynthia Haymon and Cynthia Caray. Teatro La Fenice, San Marco 1231. Tel: (39 41) 5210388. Feb 21, 23, 25-28, Mar 1.

5.00 Coles 6.30 Breakfast News 9.05 Killy 9.50 Hot Choc 10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Paydays 10.25 Jump 10.35 No Kidding 11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 Travel Show Extra 11.30 People Today, regional news and weather 11.35 Regional News and weather 1.00 One O'Clock News and weather 1.30 The Big Game 1.50 The Top of the Pops 2.00 Sports 4.05 January 4.20 The Further Adventures of SuperTed 4.30 Hanger 17 4.50 Newsround Extra 5.05 Grange Hill 5.35 Neighbours (1) 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Regional News Magazine 7.00 Virgin with Gloria Hunniford 7.35 Harry and the Handcuffs 8.00 In Sickness and in Health 8.30 Caught in the Act 9.00 Nine O'Clock News 9.30 Love Hurts 10.20 Olympics '92 11.50 Film: Killing at Hell's Gate (1987) 1.25am Weather

6.45 Open University/Ends at 7.10 8.00 BBC Breakfast News 8.15 Westminster 8.00 Daytime on 2 8.00 News and weather 10.05 (10.05) followed by Words and Pictures 2.15 Weekend Outlook 2.25 Sport on Friday. With news and weather at 3.00 and 3.50 6.05 Catchword 6.35 The Clothes Show (1) (16) 6.00 Olympics Today 7.40 Dr Who (16) 8.00 Pulp Fiction: Britain — Life on the Inside 8.30 9.00 Victoria Wood as 9.20 Anne, Six Degrees of Separation — a New York Tale 10.30 Newsnight 11.15 Scrutiny 11.45 Weather 11.50 Film: Blueberry Hill. Ends at 1.25am

All times are in GMT. 8.30 BBC Breakfast News From London 9.05 Killy 9.50 Hot Choc 10.00 News From London 11.05 Cashew 11.30 People Today 12.00 BBC News From London 12.05pm People Today (continues) 12.30 People Today 1.30 World Weather 1.50 BBC News From London 1.55 Satellite 1.55 Getting Through 1.55 Olympic Grandstand 2.50 The Way to Saffron Shore 4.05 Catchword Trail 4.20 A Lady Lay 4.50 Watchdog 5.20 Reportage 6.00 BBC News From London 6.30 Satellite 6.35 No Kidding 1.00 Top of the Pops 7.30 Eastenders 8.00 BBC World Service News 8.30 The British Empire 9.00 Last of the Summer Wine 9.30 Crimewatch UK 10.15 In the Garden 10.30 Newsnight 10.15 Crimewatch UK Update 11.25 Olympics Today 90.40 World Business Report 90.55 Cont

All times in GMT. 4.30am World Business Report 4.40 Travel and Weather News 4.45 News and Press Review in German 5.00 Morgenpost 6.20 Top of the Pops 6.24 News in German 6.30 Olympics Today 6.55 Weather 8.00 News 8.05 News About Britain 8.15 The World Today 8.30 London Mail 8.58 Weather 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 Tourism 8.00 News 8.05 Words of Faith 8.15 Music Review 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report Live 9.15 Global Concerns 9.30 Seven Seas 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 News 10.01 Focus on Faith 10.30 World Rankin 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 London Mail 11.45 Morningscape 11.59 Weather 12.00 News 12.05pm News About Britain 12.15 Tourism 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newsround 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook Live 2.50 Off the Shelf: Madame Bovary 2.45 Global Concerns 3.00 News 3.15 Music Review 4.00 News 4.05 News About Britain 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News About Britain 5.00 News and Business Report 5.15 The World Today 5.30 London Mail 5.14 BBC English 6.29 News 6.30 Haute Couture 7.00 German Features 7.54 News in German 8.00 News and Business Report 8.15 London Denim 8.30 Europe Tonight 8.50 Newsround 10.00 News 10.05 News About Britain 10.15 People and Politics 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.05 World Business Report 11.15 WorldRank 11.20 Multitrack 3 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am From the Weeklies 12.45 Recording of the Week 1.00 News 1.05 Outlook 1.30 Short Story: Surviving on Mexican Shores 1.45 Jazz Now and Then 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 News 3.05 Words of Faith 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 The Vintage Chart Show 4.00 News

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